SERAPHIC FEATHER

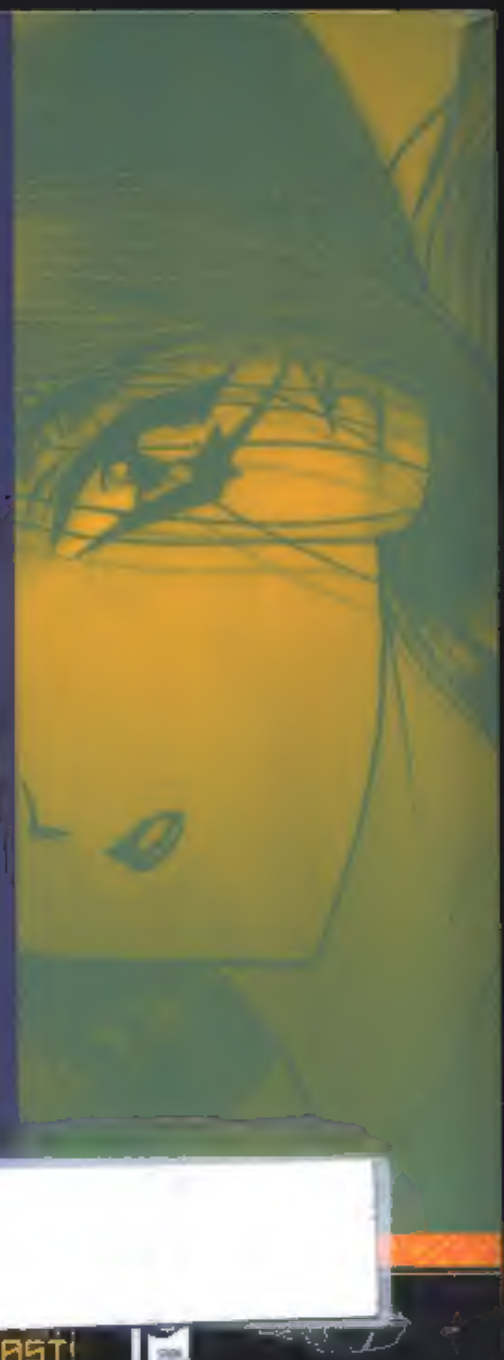
dark angel

hiroyuki UTATANE | *toshiya* TAKEDA

A Buried Alien Starship

on the dark side of the moon is ready to give up its secrets, and those who want to harness its incredible power draw in an ever-tightening circle of deception and death. The key players: young paranormal Sunao Oumi, an unwilling participant in this madness; M-ZAK, a beautiful and deadly U.N. super-agent; Kei Heidemann, Sunao's long-lost - and assumed long-**DEAD** - love; and Apep Heidemann, Kei's brother-in-law, a mysterious scientist with access to the otherworldly technology and in apparent contact with the aliens themselves and their death-dealing sentinels, who dispatch an armed-to-the-teeth elite U.N. strike team like so many toy soldiers. And Apep himself may have unlocked more than mere secrets. He may have transformed into something more - **MUCH** more - than human!

"I found myself getting pulled in more and more with each page."
- Greg McElhatten, iCOMICS.com



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BLAST!
GRAPHIC NOVEL

dark angel

SERAPHIC FEATHER

Dark Angel

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DARK HORSE MANGA™

SERAPHIC FEATHER

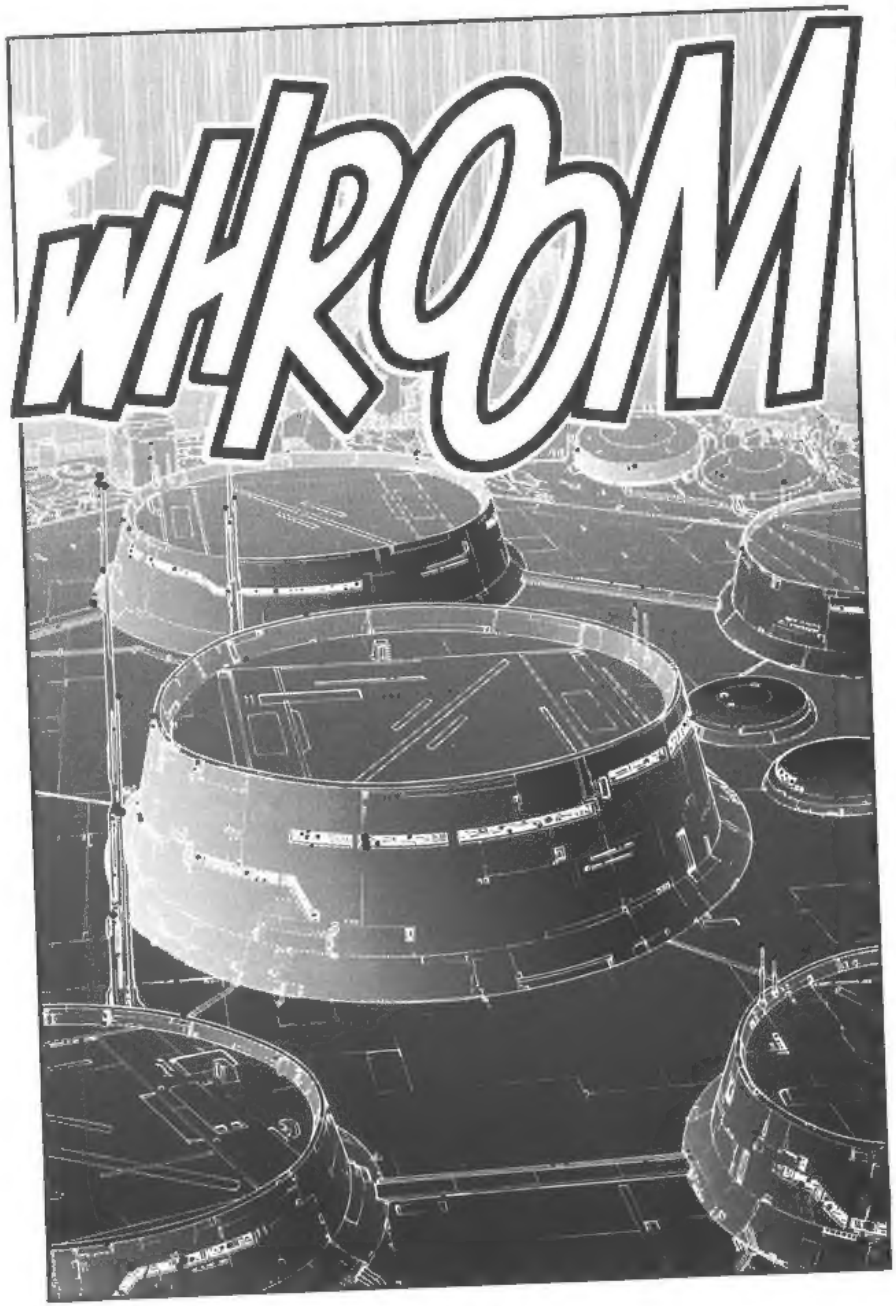
ACT 28

ISSUES TWENTY-SIX
THE COMIC-BOOK
AND SHOP
#26

SHIT
NUMBER FOUR... ACTIVATING ON ITS OWN...?

AH HA... IS THIS IT...?
OH... NO, IT ISN'T.
:HAHH:
SHLUKK
:HUHH:
OH, PHOOEY... WHICH ONE IS IT...? AH!
THERE!
SPLUDD
SPLUDD
:HFF:
SHLUKK
:HAHH:

APEP, PLEASE... WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK...?
:HUHH:
SHUKK
:HGKK:
:HAHH:
SHLUKK
KTAK


WHROOM

THUP
NOKK
SKREE
KRAK
SKRASSH
GAAAAA

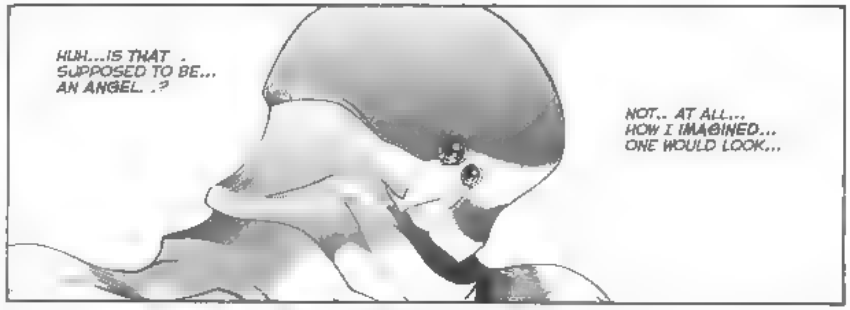
EEEK!!
KTAK
SKSSH
APEP!
ARE YOU QUITE ALL RIGHT, FAWN...?
CARE-FUL, NOW.
FHPP

AH... I'M F-FINE, THANK YOU...! BUT... WHAT WAS THAT SHOCK, JUST NOW...?
WAS IT AN EARTH-QUAKE ...?
NOT LIKELY, FAWN... AS WE DON'T HAVE EARTH-QUAKES, AS SUCH, ON THE MOON... BUT I'LL ENDEAVOR TO PROTECT YOU NONE-THELESS.
OH... OH...!
A-APEP ...?
I'M... I'M ALL RIGHT, NOW...
P-PLEASE, APEP... LET ME...

"SOMEBODY... PLEASE HELP ATTIM..."
RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB
STRANGE....
...FEELS LIKE... I'M SWAYING... BACK AND FORTH...
BWEEE

IS THIS HOW...
...EVERYTHING ...ENDS...?
?!
VREEE WISH
SOMEONE'S... COMING...?
VRMMMMMMMM

*. SOMEONE..
HELP.
*..PLEASE..
HELP ATTIM_!"


HUH...IS THAT.
SUPPOSED TO BE...
AN ANGEL..?
NOT.. AT ALL...
HOW I IMAGINED...
ONE WOULD LOOK...

FUNNY.
I'LL HAVE TO..
TELL KEI..
ABOUT THIS.
KEI...
AND SUNAO...

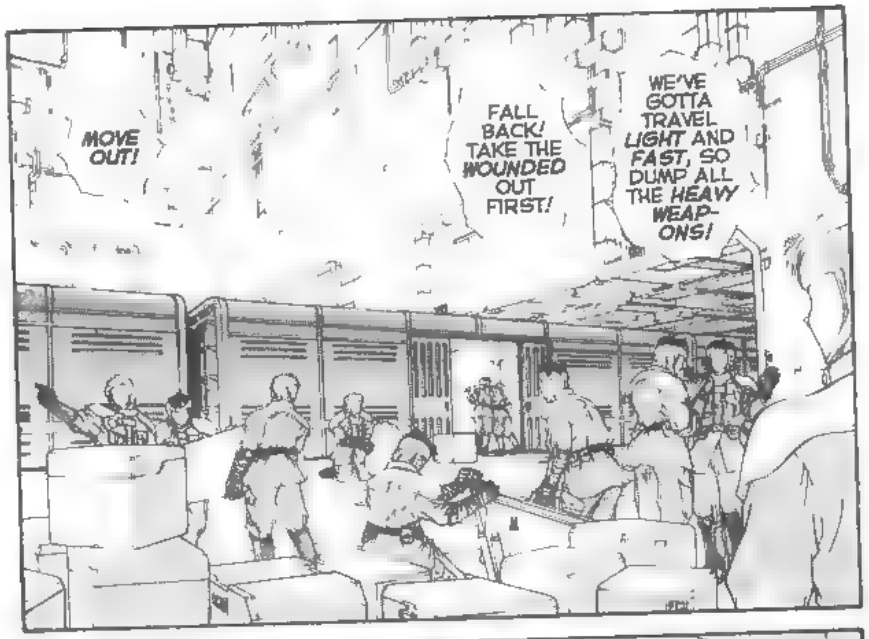
OH, SUNAO...MY..
BIG BROTHER.

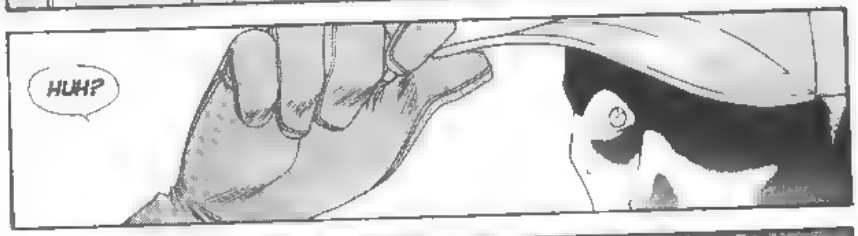
OH, APEP..
APEP...!
AH... I SENSE YOUR PRESENCE ..
SORRY, FAWN.
OOHH
YOU'RE HERE, SOMEWHERE IN THE LABORATORY COMPLEX, AREN'T YOU... MY DEAR SISTER KEI.
WH-WHY.. ARE YOU APOLOGIZ-ING ..?
I'VE UNFAIRLY FORCED MY FEELINGS UPON YOU.

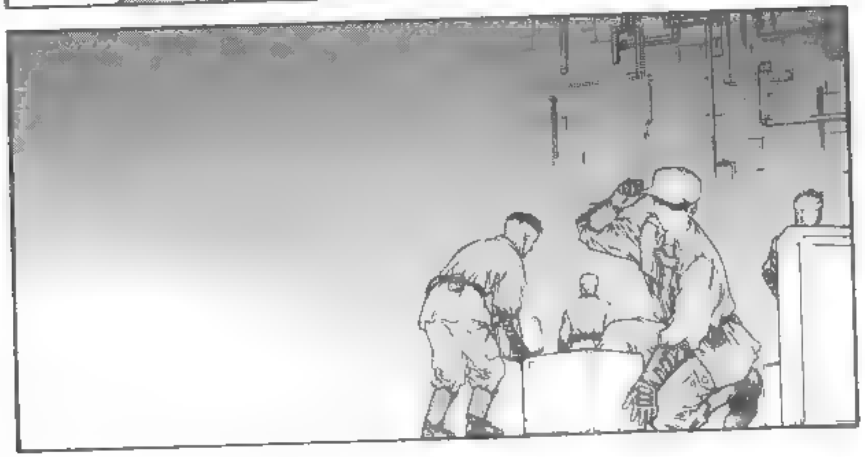
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TELL FAWN .. BUT I'M SOMEWHAT AGITATED, AT THE MOMENT . EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE, TO BE HONEST
AND JUST AT THE MOMENT I DETECTED YOU, MY SERVANT NUMBER FOUR SPONTANEOUSLY ACTIVATED.. WITHOUT MY COMMAND.
THAT WASN'T MERELY A MOMENT OF CRUDE LUST, YOU SEE.. RATHER, I SUDDENLY FELT THE NEED FOR .. HUMAN WARMTH.
SO.. HAS MY FINAL TRANSFOR-MATION BEGUN, THEN .?
BEFORE I TAKE AN INHUMAN PATH, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL MANKIND...
I... I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU, APEP!
WHY?! WHY ARE YOU S-SAYING THESE THINGS? A-AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?
AM I HAVING SOME FINAL HUMAN QUALMS NOW, POOR FAWN?
SOME LAST DESIRE FOR HUMAN CONTACT, HUMAN INTIMACY?
CAN'T I... CAN'T I BE WITH YOU.. ?
BUT IF WHAT I'M SENSING IS INDEED REAL. .
THANK YOU SO MUCH, FAWN
IF KEI HAS, IN FACT MANIFESTED HER TRUE NATURE

WHOOSH
SHOOM
SKRRANGG
FWSHH
...THEN THE TIME FOR ACTION HAS COME...!

ACT 29

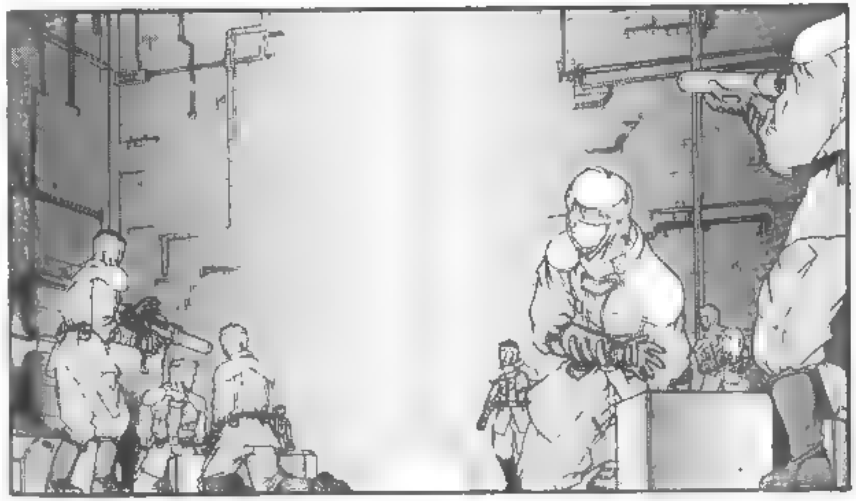

MOVE OUT!
FALL BACK! TAKE THE WOUNDED OUT FIRST!
WE'VE GOTTA TRAVEL LIGHT AND FAST, SO DUMP ALL THE HEAVY WEAP-ONS!


HUH?



WHOA! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ...?!
!

WH... WHAT NOW ...?



SKRIKK
KRAKK
FZZZ
ZZZK
FSHOOM
GYAAA--!

VMM
MMM
WHSHH

OH, MY GOD... ISN'T THAT...?

...MISS M-ZAK...?
N-NO ...! ATTIM !!

SPLTT PLIPP
WHOOSH

FHMPP
FHTT

"IS THAT MONSTER...
"...THE SAME ONE WE SAW IN THAT RESTAURANT?"
OH...
...OH, NO...
KEI...?
...NO...!

"JUST LIKE... MY SISTER..."

AAAAAA

NOOO!! ATTIM!!
ATTIMMM!

STOP! DON'T MOVE HER, DAMN IT!
NOOO! LET ME GO...! ATTIM ...!
SOME-BODY GET A MEDIC!

RIGHT! I'LL GO SNAG ONE!
PLEASE HURRY ...!
HEY, I'M ON IT, SON!
SEE IF YOU CAN GET THE LI'L LADY TO CALM DOWN, HUH?
BUCCH!
DAMN... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO HERE... THIS IS HOPELESS...

A-ATTIM... ANSWER ME...!
CAN Y-YOU HEAR ME ...?
MOVE IT! OUT OF THE WAY!
TMPP TMPP TMPP
UN
OW! LOOK HERE, YOU--!
I ALREADY HAVE PATIENTS BACK ON THE TRAIN ...!
LOOK, DOC! THAT WOMAN, OVER THERE! SEE?
WHAT?

GOOD LORD...!
GET BACK! GIVE ME SOME SPACE TO WORK, HERE!
SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, KEI ...
SOME-HOW- I KNOW IT
Y-YES... YES ...!
ATTIM, YOU CAN'T DIE! YOU PROMISED THAT YOU'D BAKE ME A CAKE! A SUPER-YUMMY CHEESECAKE! YOU PROMISED!
DON'T LIE TO ME... PLEASE! JUST DON'T DIE...!

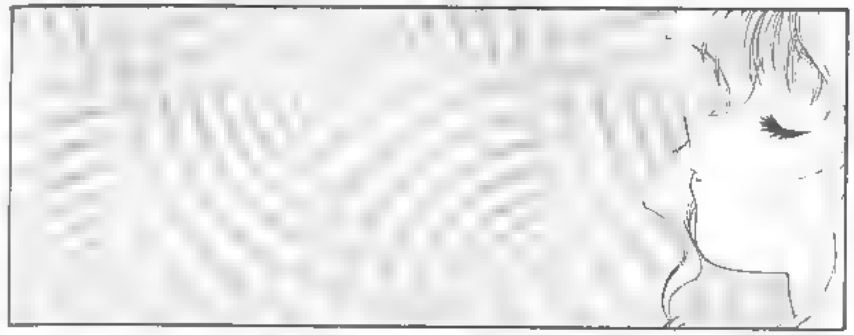
SO... THIS IS A SENTINEL, HUH?
SURE LOOKS LIKE ONE...
...BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE RESCUED HER. STRANGE.
=HGRKK=
=GLKK=
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON, SIR?
BEATS ME.
ANY INSIGHTS HERE, DOCTOR HEIDEMANN ...?

AH... PARDON ...?
I, AH... CAN'T REALLY SAY...
DOCTOR HEIDEMANN!

H-HOLY SHIT! THE DAMN THING'S MOVING AGAIN!!
EEK!
LEMME OUTTA HERE--!
GNAAH!
N-NO... PLEASE ...!
DON'T HURT HER!
WHSHH

S-STOP IT...!
JUST STAY AWAY FROM HER!

KEI...! DON'T--!!
WHR
AM

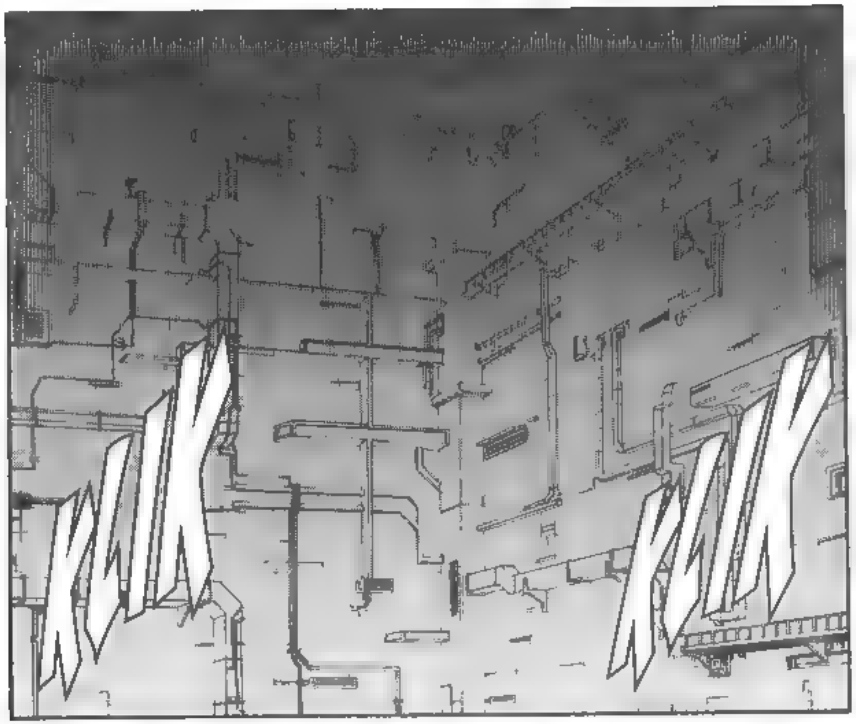


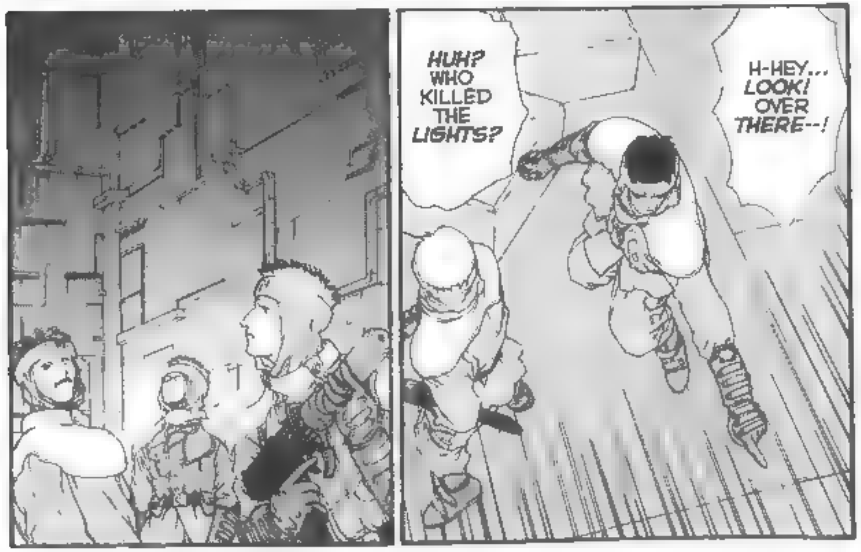
OH... I SEE, NOW ...!
THEN, YES... PLEASE HELP ATTIM!
KEI ...? WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING ...?
...!

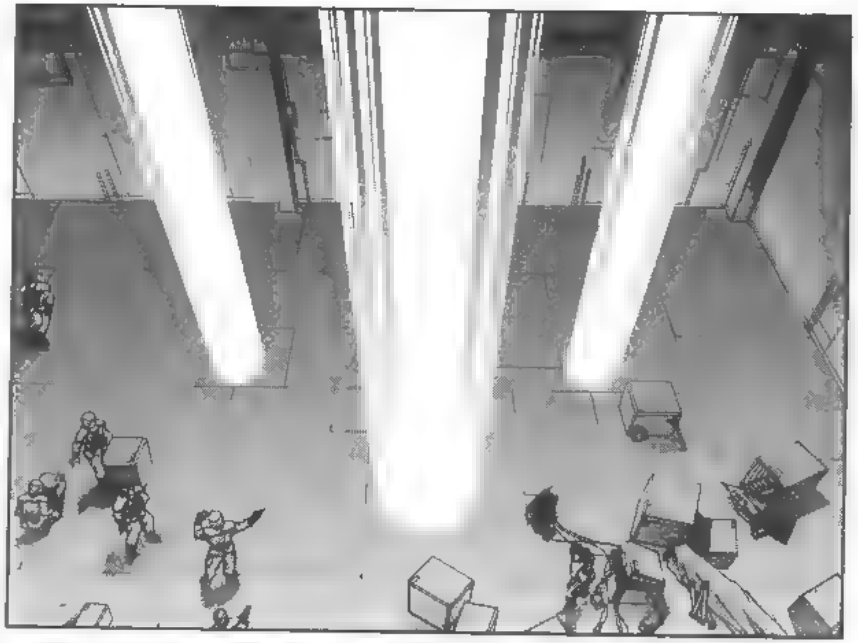
FZZZKKK

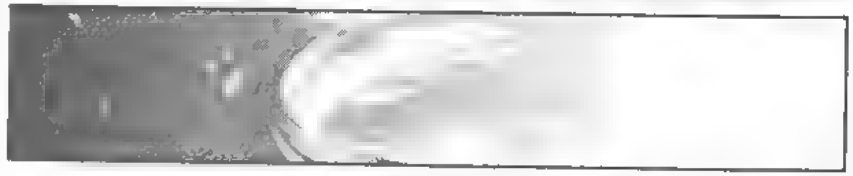
VHHH
VHHH
THESE POINTS OF LIGHT... SO WARM...
...SO BEAUTIFUL...
SH... SHE'LL BE OKAY NOW, SUNAO ....
TH-THANK GOD ...!

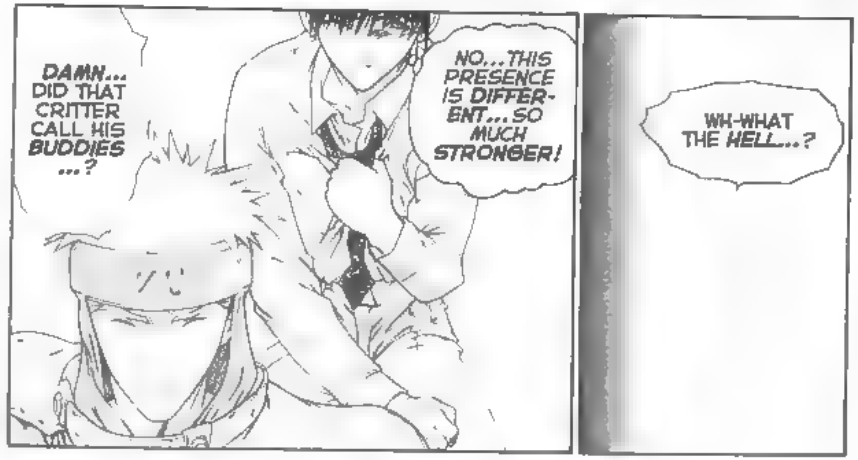
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON, HEIDEMANN? SO THOSE THINGS AREN'T THE ENEMY AFTER ALL--?!
CAN THIS BE...?
HAS KEI MANAGED TO RECLAIM HER MEMORIES, SOME-HOW...?
AND SHE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO COMMAND THE SENTINELS, AS APEP CAN DO...BUT WILL SHE BECOME AS INHUMAN AS MY SON...?
"PLEASE, GOD...NO...NOT KEI, TOO...NOT HER...!"


KLIK
KLIK


HUH? WHO KILLED THE LIGHTS?
H-HEY... LOOK! OVER THERE--!






DAMN... DID THAT CRITTER CALL HIS BUDDIES ...?
NO...THIS PRESENCE IS DIFFERENT... SO MUCH STRONGER!
WH-WHAT THE HELL...?

ACT 30

A-APEP...?
"APEP"...? SO THIS IS HER BROTHER-IN-LAW...?
AH. SO IT WAS YOU THAT I SENSED, KEI.

IT WAS YOU THAT SUMMONED NUMBER FOUR.
SO... YOU'VE DISCOVERED YOUR ALIEN POWERS, I SEE.
"SUMMONED" ...?
A- ALIEN POWERS ...? BUT...
I... I DON'T UNDER-STAND ...!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, APEP ...?
TMPD TMPD TMPD TMPD EEK!
WHDD

KCHAK
WHCHAK
KEI?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...?
WH-WHAT ARE THEY DOING ...?
BUNCH OF IDIOTS ...!
HIS PET BEASTIES MOP THE FLOOR WITH THEM...
...AND THEY JUST KEEP ON THROWING THE CANNON FODDER AT HIM...

KOROLEV ADVANCED RESEARCH LABORATORY ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR APEP HEIDEMANN!
YOU'RE CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES: SUSPICION OF INCITEMENT TO LARCENY! MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC RESOURCES!
VIOLATION, SOCIAL STABILITY PRESERVATION ACT! VIOLATION, DATA MANAGEMENT ACT! VIOLATION, THERMAL SOURCE CONTROL ACT! VIOLATION, WEAPONS CONTROL ACT!
AND FURTHERMORE... YOU'RE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, HEIDEMANN! NOW, COME ALONG PEACEFULLY, AND WE WON'T HAVE TO--
AND IF I DON'T CARE TO COME ALONG PEACE-FULLY...?

HAHH? WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY? W-WELL... IN THAT CASE...
...WE MAY, AH... WE MAY HAVE TO USE FORCE ...!
NOW, THERE'S A FELLA WHO HASN'T LEARNED A THING!
TUT, TUT
THINK A LITTLE BEFORE YOU ACT, WHY DON'T YOU ...?
KEI ...?!
H-HEY! STOP!
FWAPP
STOP IT!

THIS C-CAN'T BE TRUE!
IT'S A MISTAKE ...!
APEP CAN'T HAVE DONE THOSE THINGS! H-HE ISN'T... EVIL!
AFTER ALL, MY SISTER LOVED HIM, DIDN'T SHE...?
RIGHT ...?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, FATHER ...?
FATHER ...? A... APEP ...?

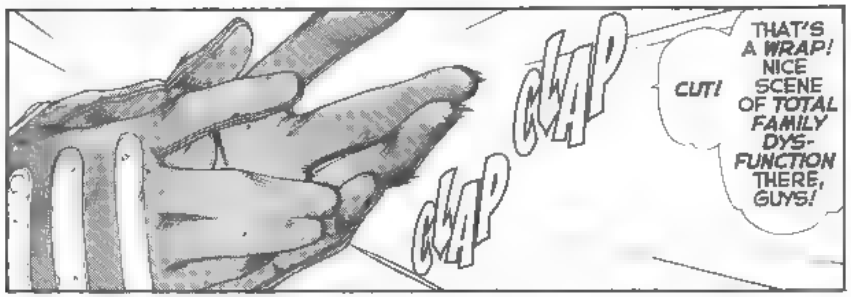
WELL, WELL. IT HAS BEEN RATHER A WHILE SINCE WE LAST MET, HASN'T IT, FATHER?
SO... DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?
AND THIS IS MERELY A FRACTION OF THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE ALIEN LEGACY YOU'RE LUSTING AFTER ...
*WHEN I HEARD YOU'D SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION, I BEGAN TO WONDER, APEP..."
...AND NOW I KNOW.
YOU'VE BECOME A SERAPH, HAVEN'T YOU...
OF COURSE I HAVE, FATHER DEAR. JUST LIKE KEI...

*SERAPH: One who can access and control the power of the Emblem Seeds.

?!
HUH? A "SERAPH" ...? IS THE KID THE SAME AS HIM, THEN?
IS SHE GONNA SPROUT ANGEL WINGS, TOO...?
NO! NO!!
KEI'S NOT LIKE THAT...!
SHE'S JUST A...
...JUST A NORMAL GIRL... SHE'S NOT... NOT LIKE HIM...

YOU'RE INTOXICATED WITH YOUR NEW POWERS, APEP...
...WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THEIR TRUE SIGNIFICANCE... AND THEIR TRUE RISK.
THIS IS ALL TOO DANGEROUS, SON.
COME BACK WITH ME... PLEASE.
WHAT THEN, FATHER?
SHALL I BECOME ANOTHER GUINEA PIG FOR YOUR RESEARCH, FATHER? LIKE POOR, UNSUSPECTING KEI, PERHAPS?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS THIS POWER... AREN'T YOU, DR. HEIDEMANN?
N-NONSENSE. THAT'S NOT WHAT I--
THEN ANSWER ME THIS, FATHER.
WHY DID YOU BRING KEI TO THE MOON, AT THE VERY MOMENT THAT YOU WERE PREPARING TO TAKE THIS LABORATORY BY FORCE? SEEMS A TAD RISKY FOR THE POOR GIRL, DON'T YOU THINK?
COULD IT PERHAPS BE THE CASE THAT YOU WANTED ALL OF THE EMBLEM SEEDS HERE... FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE? A BIT CALLOUS OF YOU, REALLY.
LISTEN TO ME! THAT'S NOT TRUE, APEP! I JUST WANTED KEI NEAR ME! IS THAT SO--


CLAP
CLAP
CUT!
THAT'S A WRAP! NICE SCENE OF TOTAL FAMILY DYS-FUNCTION THERE, GUYS!

BRAVO!
UN

I'M LOVING YOUR LITTLE FAMILY SQUABBLE, HERE... BUT AS FOR THE REST OF US, IT'S CLEAR THAT WE'RE OUT-GUNNED IN THIS WEE DISPUTE.
OUR LITTLE OL' SWAT TEAM DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ANGELFACE BADBOY'S SENTINEL CRITTERS, I'M GUESSING...
UN

HUH? WHO'S HE...?
WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM,?

WHO IS THAT MAN? SILENCE HIM!
HEY THERE, BOSSY BOOTS. SLAP A LID ON IT FOR A SEC, OKAY?

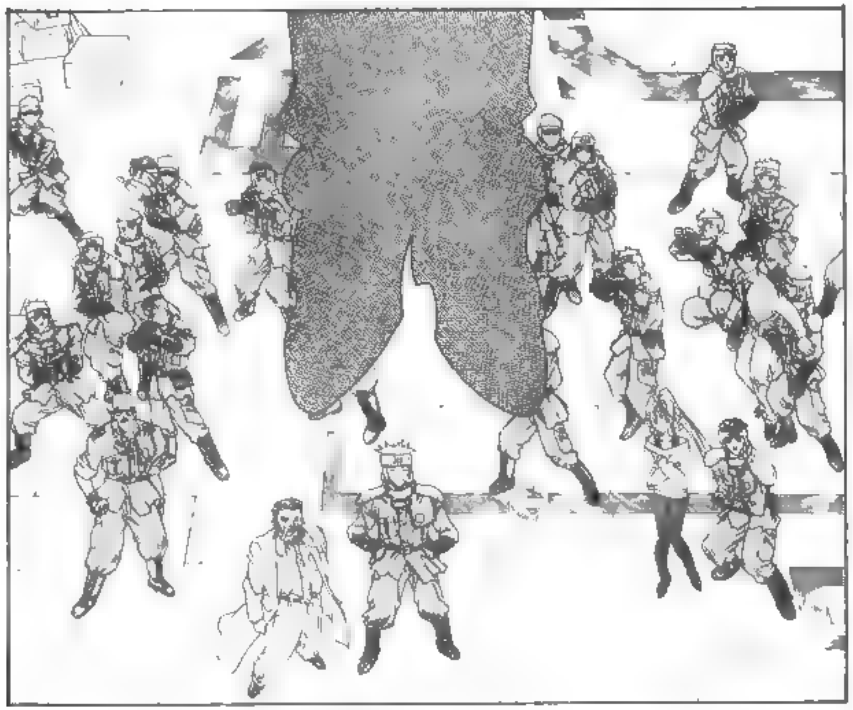
NOW, THEN... ...D'YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN FIGHT THE WHOLE WORLD BY YOURSELF, ANGEL BOY? KIND OF A LITTLE ON THE EGOTISTICAL SIDE, AREN'T YA?
HM?
UN

HEH...
AH, BUT OF COURSE I AM...

WELL, DON'T TELL ME YOU TRUST THE OL' DYKSTRA CORPO-RATION... DO YA?
FORGET IT. JUST FORGET IT, ANGEL-FACE. BAAAAD IDEA.
SOONER OR LATER, THEY'LL DUMP YOUR PRETTY-BOY ASS.
A MAN WITH TOO MUCH POWER IS ENVIED. FEARED. AND DESTROYED, IN THE END. IT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD, Y'KNOW.
YOU WEREN'T BORN YESTERDAY, WERE YOU, BUDDY? 'CAUSE YOU'RE SURE ACTING LIKE IT...
FWIPP
FWIPP
UN

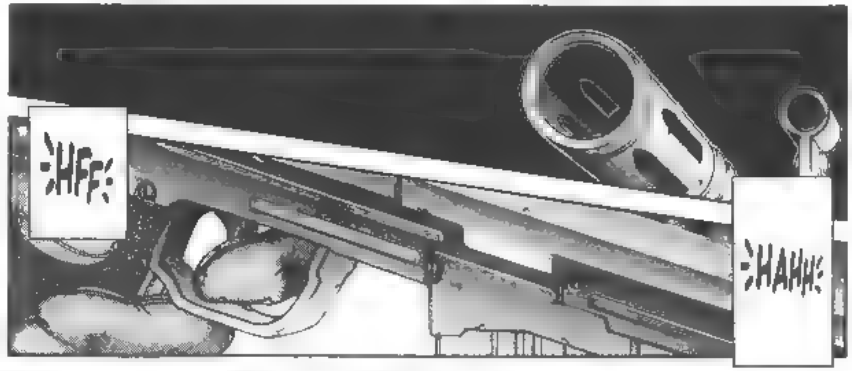
YOU ARE A FUNNY FELLOW, SIR. HIGHLY AMUSING, REALLY.
HOWEVER, YOUR ASSUMPTIONS ARE A BIT FLAWED, I'M AFRAID.
TO "FIGHT THE WHOLE WORLD," BY MYSELF?
A STIRRING PHRASE, THAT... BUT NOT AN ENTIRELY ACCURATE SUMMARY OF MY INTENTIONS.
LORDY, LORDY. JUST LISTEN TO YOU...!
WELL, YOU'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO GAIN BY BUTCHERING US POOR SPEC OPS LAMBS, YOU KNOW...!
HEE HEE HEE
BUT, STILL... IF YOU INSIST...
...COME ON AND TRY IT, ANGEL-FACE!

ACT 31



HAHH
HAHH

HUHH


HFF
HAHH

!
GAHH!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
AAAAAA
BRRT
WHA--?!
GYAAA
BRAKK
IDIOTS!

APEP--
NOOO!!
WHOP
LOOK OUT, KEI--!
NO
STOP!
CEASE FIRE! I DIDN'T ORDER ANYONE TO--
!

KCHOOM
FWHOOSH
GYAAA
VORPP

WH-WHAT ...?
SPONTANEOUS SHIELD FORMATION... LIKE BEFORE, BACK AT THE ANCHOR STATION! HOW...?
WE'VE GOT MORE IN-COMING, FOLKS --!
KREES
!
WH--
?!
NUM-BER TWO!
HOLD YOUR FIRE! DON'T--
KOOM

WHAT? NUMBER FOUR --?!
ZZZKK
WHHSH
NO! DON'T HURT APE!--!
SKRAKK

SO MANY PEOPLE DEAD, IN A MATTER OF SECONDS...!
CAN OUR LIVES REALLY END SO QUICKLY... SO MEANINGLESSLY...?

WH... WHY ARE YOU DOING SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS --?
TELL ME, APEP!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO...? YOU!! MY OWN BROTHER-IN-LAW!
WHEN... WHEN HIKARU WAS DYING...
...YOU JUST WALKED AWAY AND ABAN-DONED HER!

YOU LEFT MY SISTER TO DIE!
FOR WHAT, APEP? TO DO THIS?!

HER SISTER IS DEAD...? HIKARU... DEAD...? WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN ....?
YOU'RE WRONG, KEI! I DIDN'T ABAN-DON HER--

APEP...
PLEASE... DON'T USE THE EMBLEM SEEDS... TO DESTROY...
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GIRL...?
HAHH
HAHH
VMMM
KEI! CALM DOWN! YOU MUSN'T
NO!! STOP!
GLK

BLAKK
AGK!!
DOC-TOR!
NGG
KEI! DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL HAVEN'T MANIFESTED FULLY--!
SHE HASN'T COMPLETELY ARISEN, YET...?
.....
I...I DON'T... UNDER-STAND ...!

TOTAL-LY...
FSHOOM
GKK!
SH-SHE
TRUST-ED.
YOU.
NO... I THIS FEELING... SO INTENSE... SO PAINFUL. I CAN'T BEAR IT CAN'T

HIKARU... MY SISTER.. SHE.. SHE JUST ACCEPTED WHATEVER YOU DID..
TOTALLY...
FSHOOM
:GKK:
HUH? SHE'S GROWING... WINGS?!
:HGRKK:
KEI... DON'T.. DON'T DO THIS...
SH-SHE...
...TRUSTED...
YOU..
NO...! THIS FEELING... SO INTENSE... SO PAINFUL...! I CAN'T BEAR IT.. CAN'T...
KEI, NO!! DON'T DO IT, KEI! PLEASE!

I'M NOT LIKE YOU, BIG SISTER.. I'M NOT!!
I DON'T I CAN'T... FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT APEP AS YOU DID.
ACT 32

I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM, HIKARU.

OH, HIKARU...
...I'M NOT LIKE YOU, BIG SISTER... I'M NOT!!
I DON'T... I CAN'T... FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT APEP AS YOU DID...!
ACT 32

I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM, HIKARU...
NO! YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS, KEI! STOP!
KTAK

AHH!
FZZAKK
STOP IT, KEI! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
KEI! YOU HAVE TO CONTROL YOURSELF!
IF YOU GIVE IN TO YOUR EMOTIONS, YOU'LL--
BUT... I... . ...

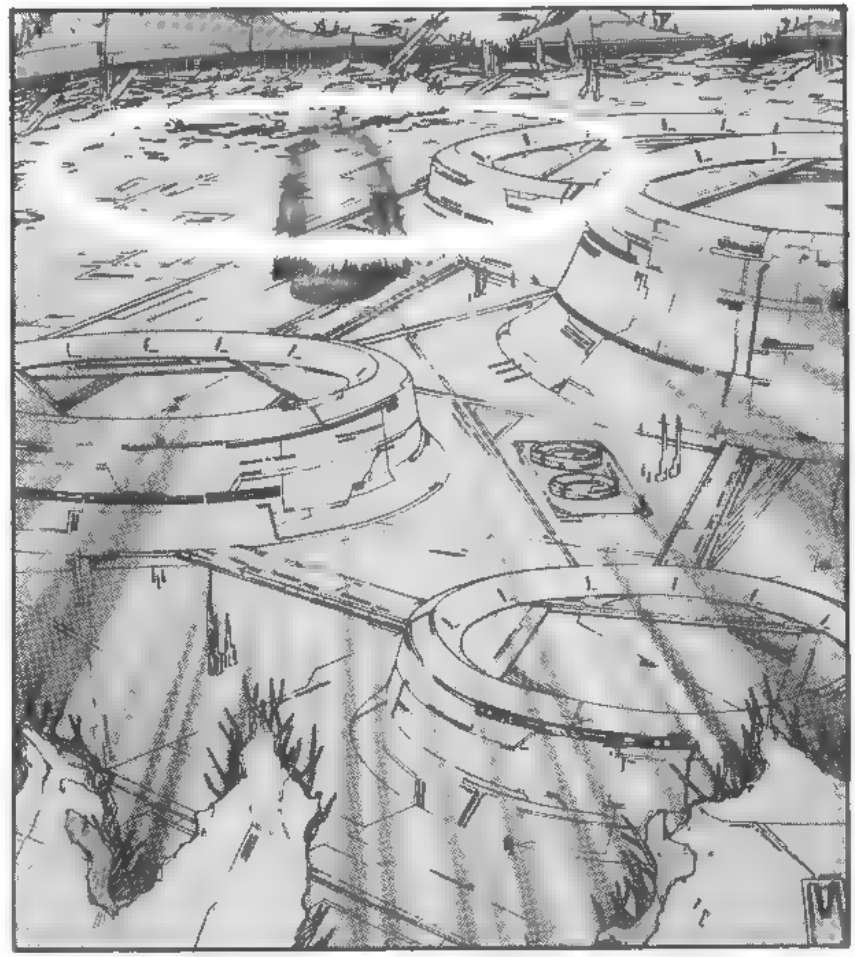
HER POWER IS ESCALATING OUT OF CONTROL... INTENSIFYING TO A CRESCENDO...!
NUMBER TWO!
NUMBER THREE!
WHISH
I...I... JUST DON'T... ....
FZZAKK

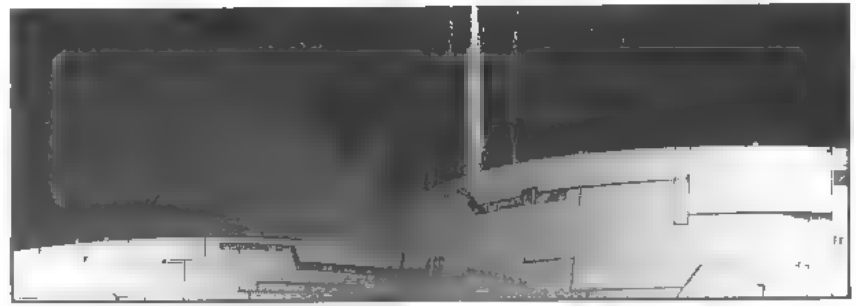
FSHOOM
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND--!
FSHOOM

FSHOOM
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND--!

FSHOOM

SPZZK





ZZZK
RRZK

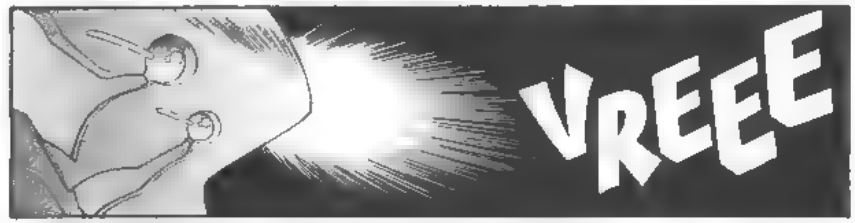
SPZZK
WHOA--!

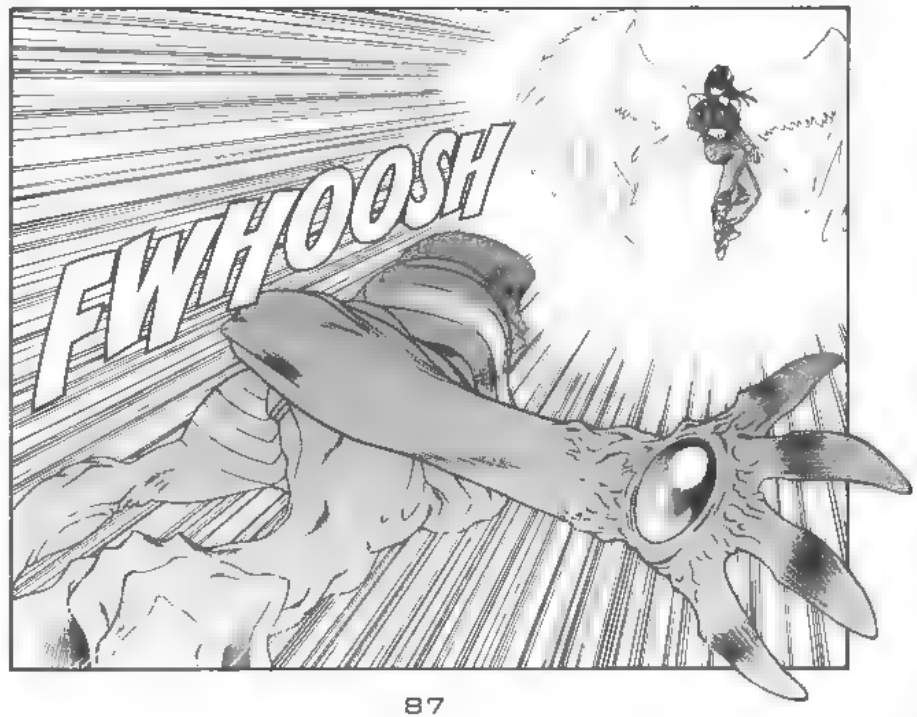
CHKKK
KEI... WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?

WHY... WHY DID YOU *LEAVE HER TO DIE*, APEP...?
IF YOU REALLY *LOVED* HIKARU, WHY DIDN'T YOU *STAY* WITH HER FOR THE LAST *MOMENTS* OF HER *LIFE*...?
WHY, APEP...? WHY...?

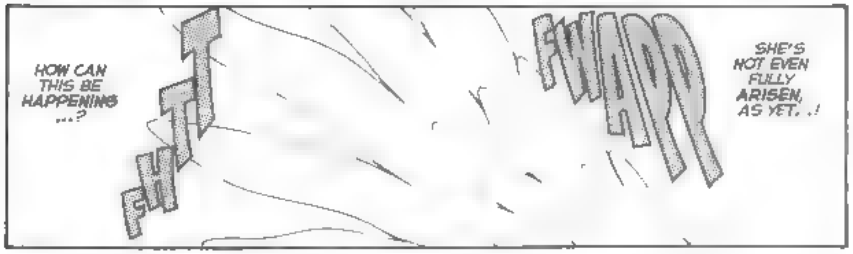
WHY?!

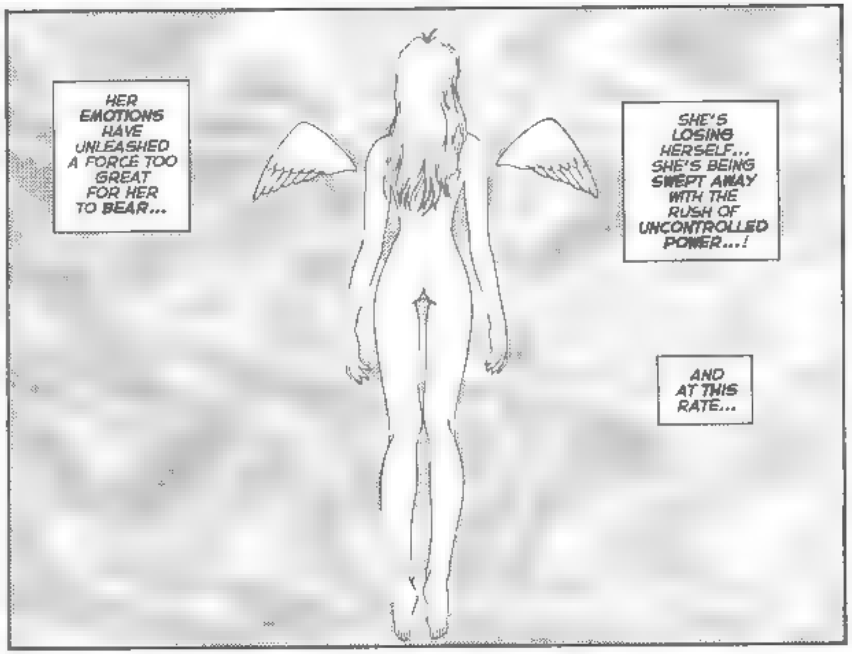
KRAK!
ZZK
KRAK
SHR
AAK


VREEE


FWHOOSH

DISOBEY ME, WILL YOU, NUMBER FOUR?!
CHOOM
KRASHH
GYAA A!


HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING ...?
FWIT
FWAPP
SHE'S NOT EVEN FULLY ARISEN, AS YET. .!


HER EMOTIONS HAVE UNLEASHED A FORCE TOO GREAT FOR HER TO BEAR...
SHE'S LOSING HERSELF... SHE'S BEING SWEPT AWAY WITH THE RUSH OF UNCONTROLLED POWER...!
AND AT THIS RATE...

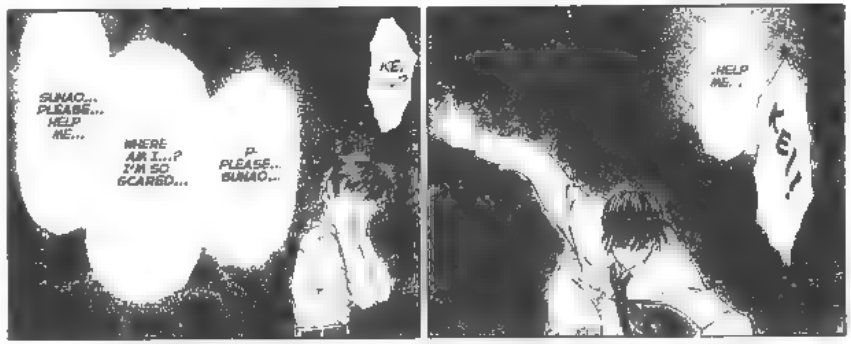
...AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL CONSUME YOURSELF, KEI! THE POWER IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU!
YOU'VE IGNITED A FIRE THAT WILL DEVOUR YOU WHOLE!
LISTEN TO ME, KEI! YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS!
!

NO! SHE CAN'T DIE. . NOT WHEN I'VE FINALLY MET HER AGAIN, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. .
MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD IN THE ACCIDENT ARE THE FOLLOWING
KE. . .

KEI HIMURO
NOT AGAIN ...!

NO... I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER THIS...

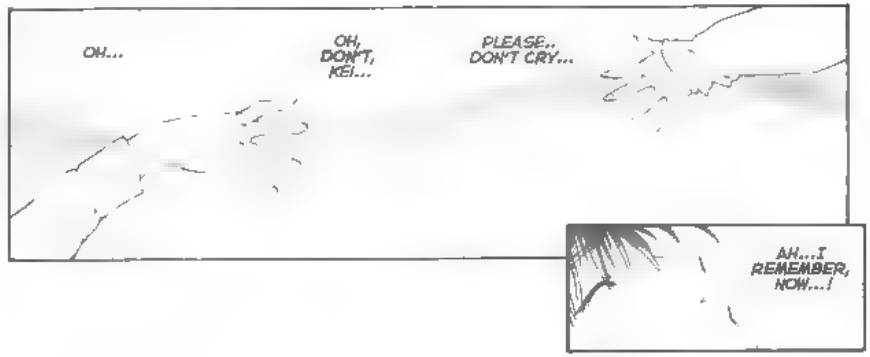
H-HELP ME..
!?
WHAT'S THAT...? WHAT AM I HEARING...?


SUNAO... PLEASE... HELP ME...
WHERE AM I...? I'M SO SCARED...
P- PLEASE... SUNAO...
KE..?
HELP ME. .
KEI!!

H-HEY, KID! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? STAY BACK!
YOU WANNA GET KILLED?!
LOOK OUT--!
KCHOOM
WHSSH!

HYAA!!
WHROOM
WHAT--?
FSHOOM
SNAK
THAT BOY... WHAT IS HE DOING...?
IT'S THAT POWER AGAIN... ONLY TEN TIMES STRONGER, THIS TIME...!

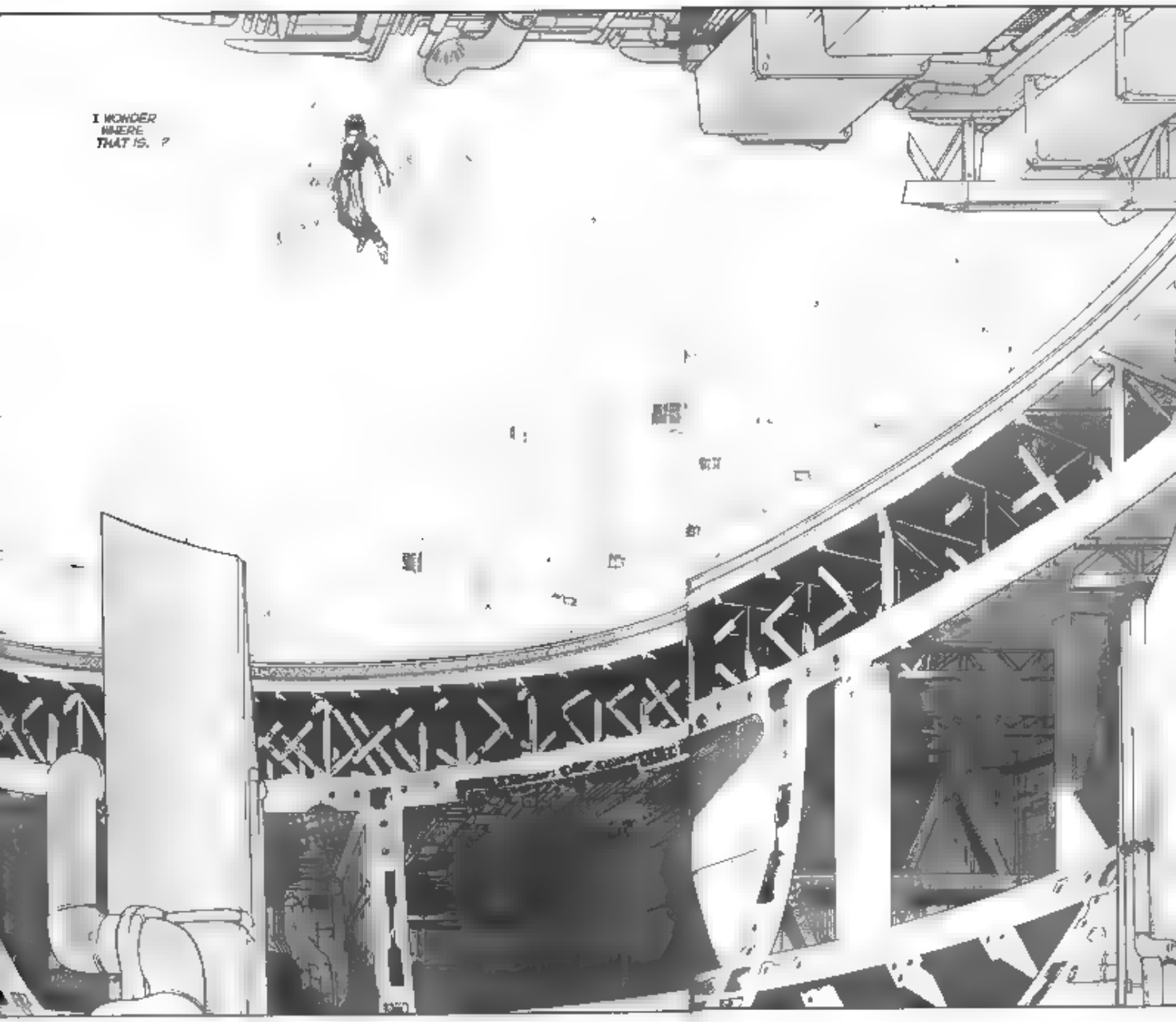
I CAN USE IT! I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I CAN!
I CAN SAVE KEI!
NO!
SHE'S GONE TOO FAR... HER POWER IS DESTABILIZING...!
NO, KEI! DON'T DO IT!
DON'T GO ANY FURTHER, OR YOU'LL--
FZZK

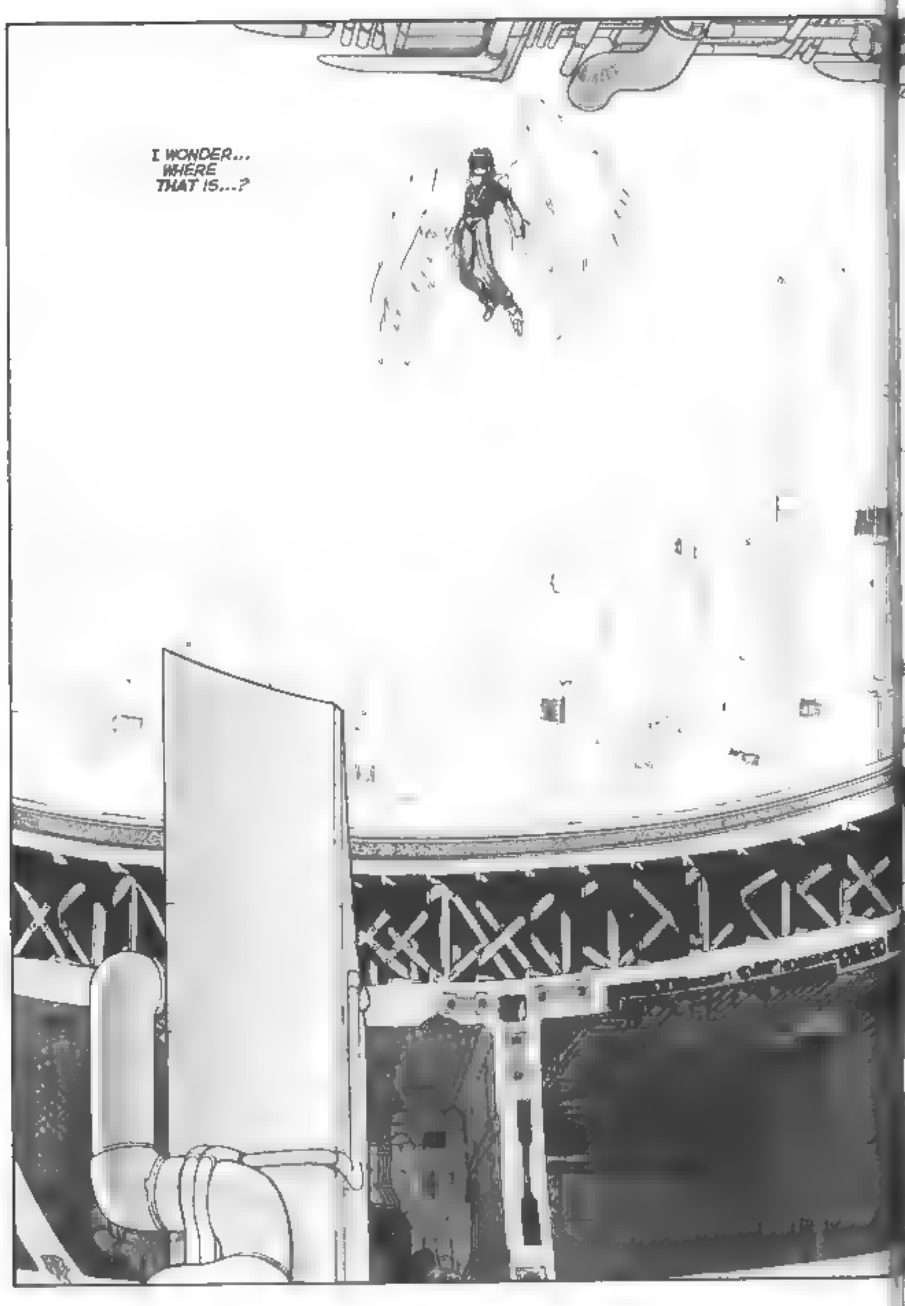


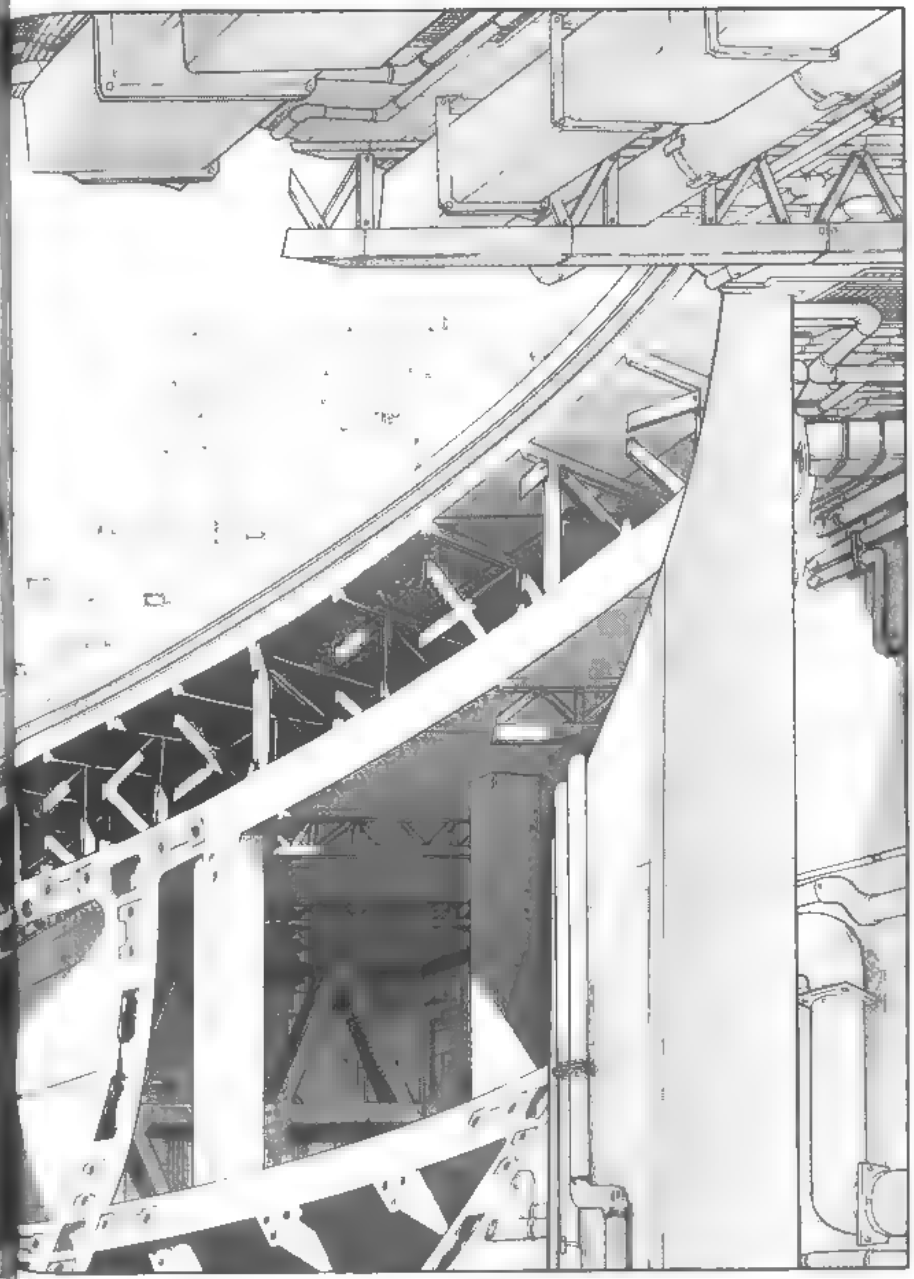
OH, KEI...

...YOU WANTED TO SEE THE STARS, DIDN'T YOU...?

YOU ASKED WHERE WE COULD GO TO SEE THEM...

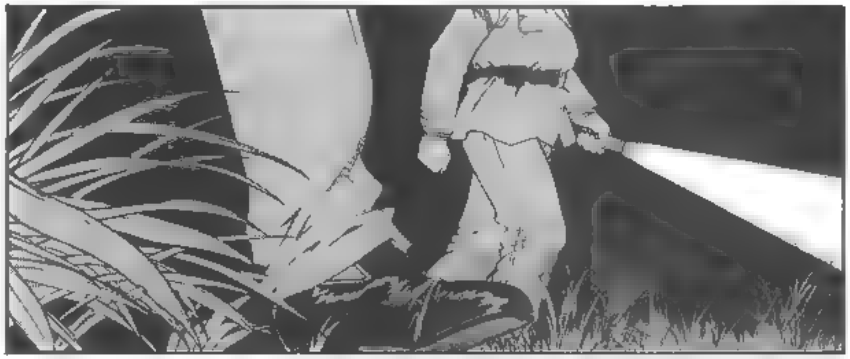

I WONDER WHERE THAT IS. ?

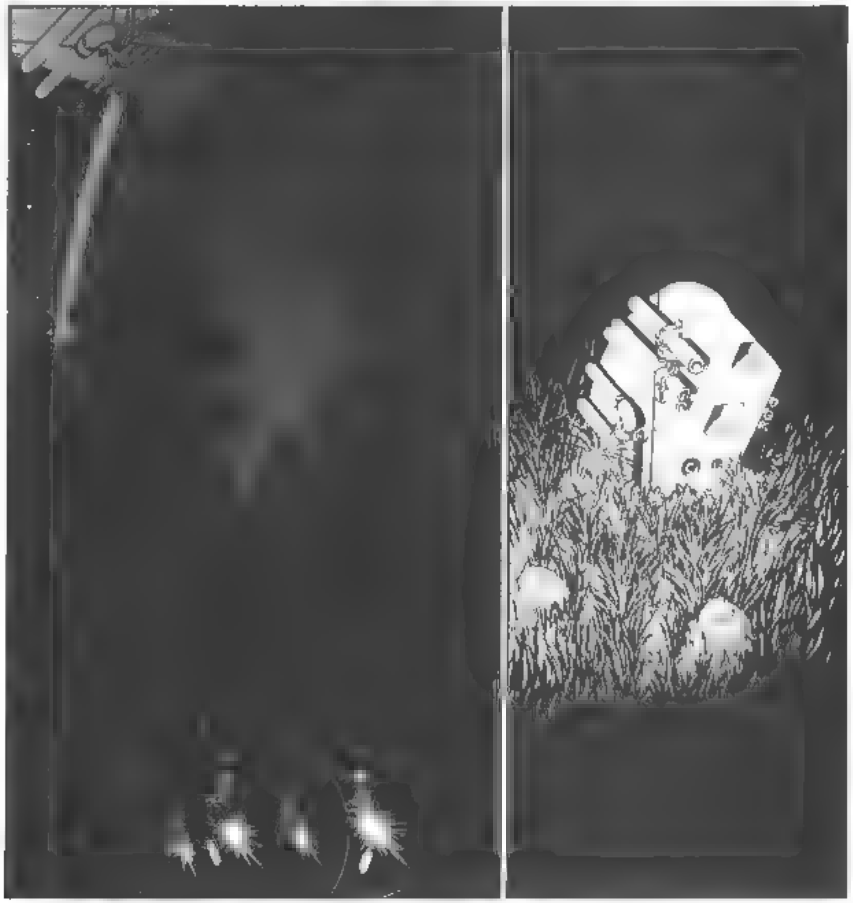

I WONDER...
WHERE
THAT IS...?

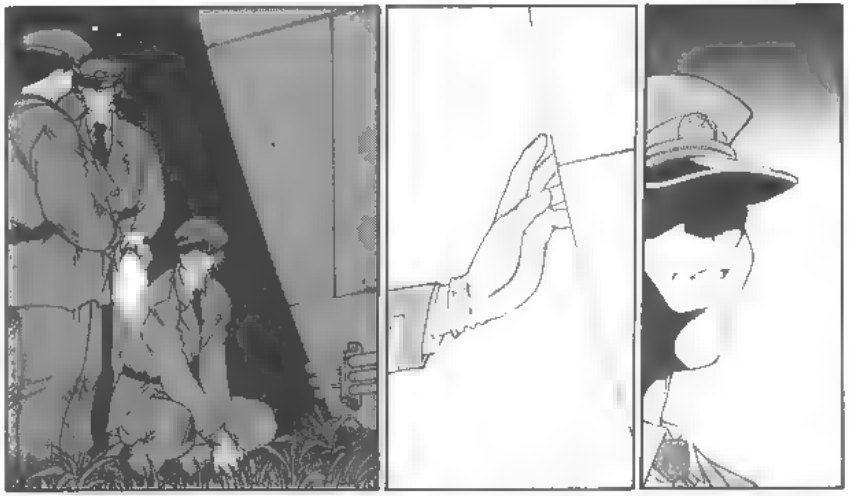


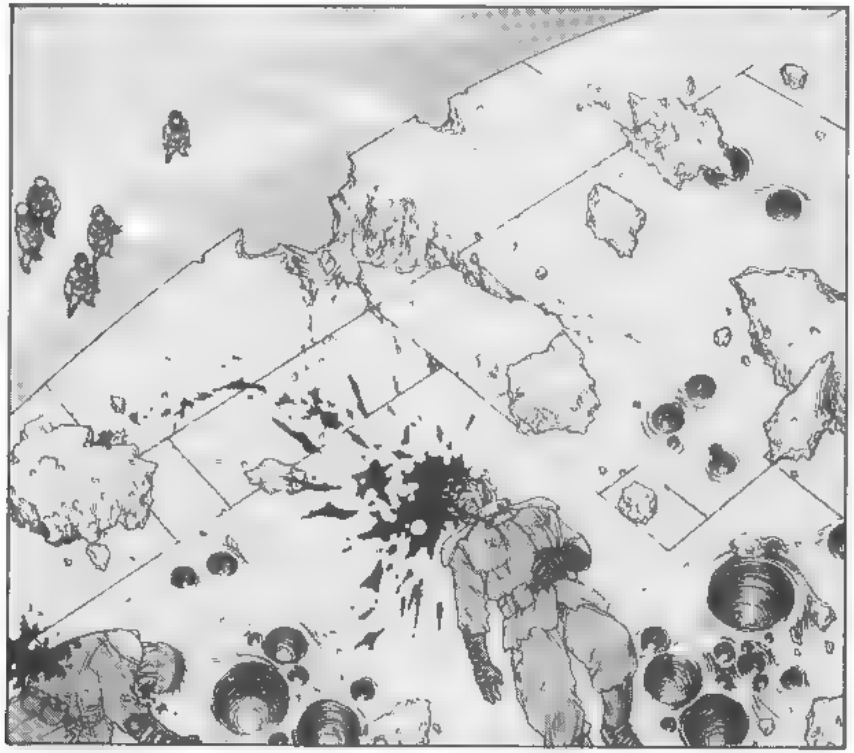
THEY'VE VANISHED.. AND TAKEN EVERYTHING WITHIN A TEN METER RADIUS WITH THEM. ?
I WONDER WHERE THEY'VE GONE. .?
SUCH POWER.. INCREDIBLE! CAN IT BE...?

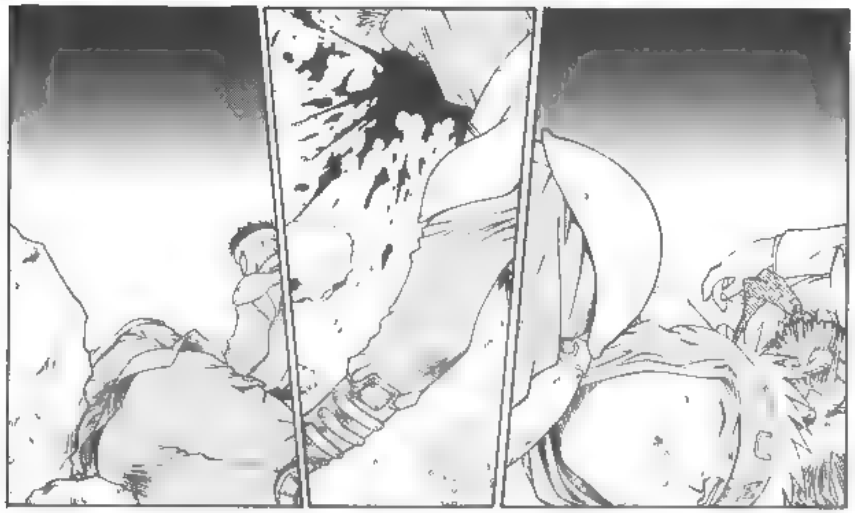
ACT 33

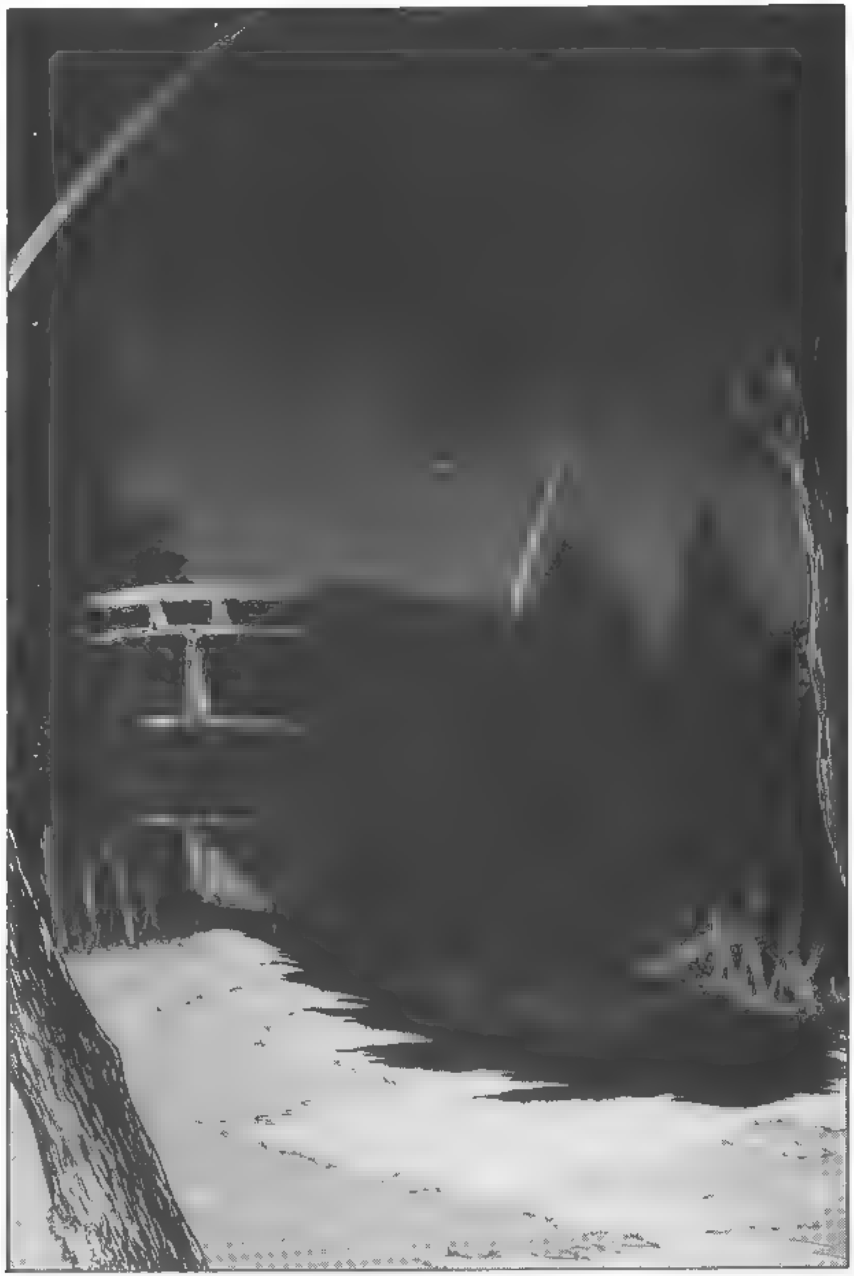




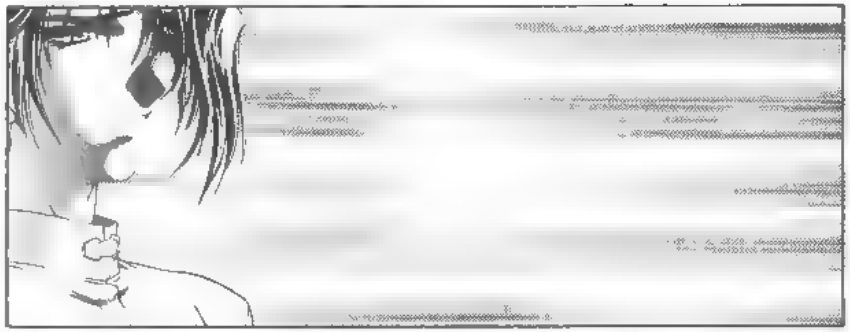








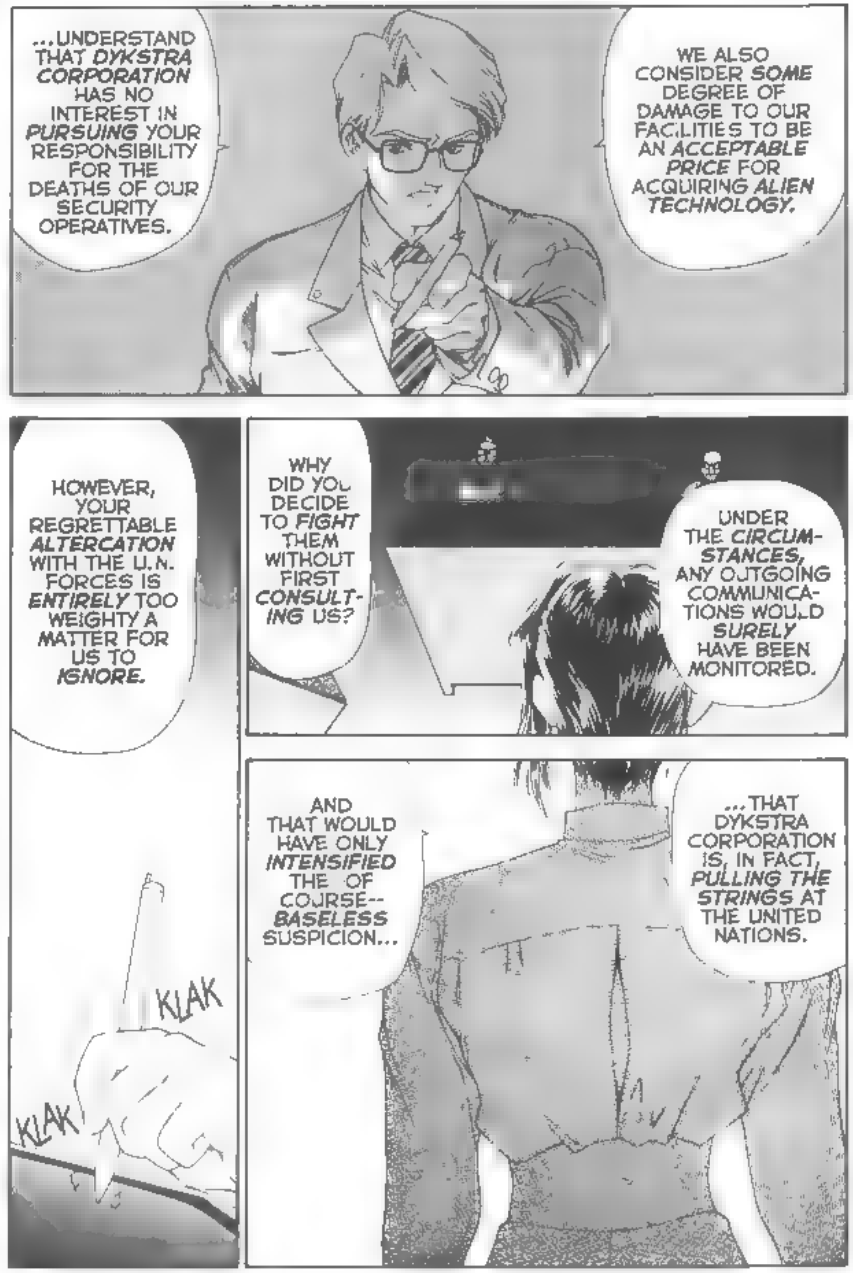
FZZK



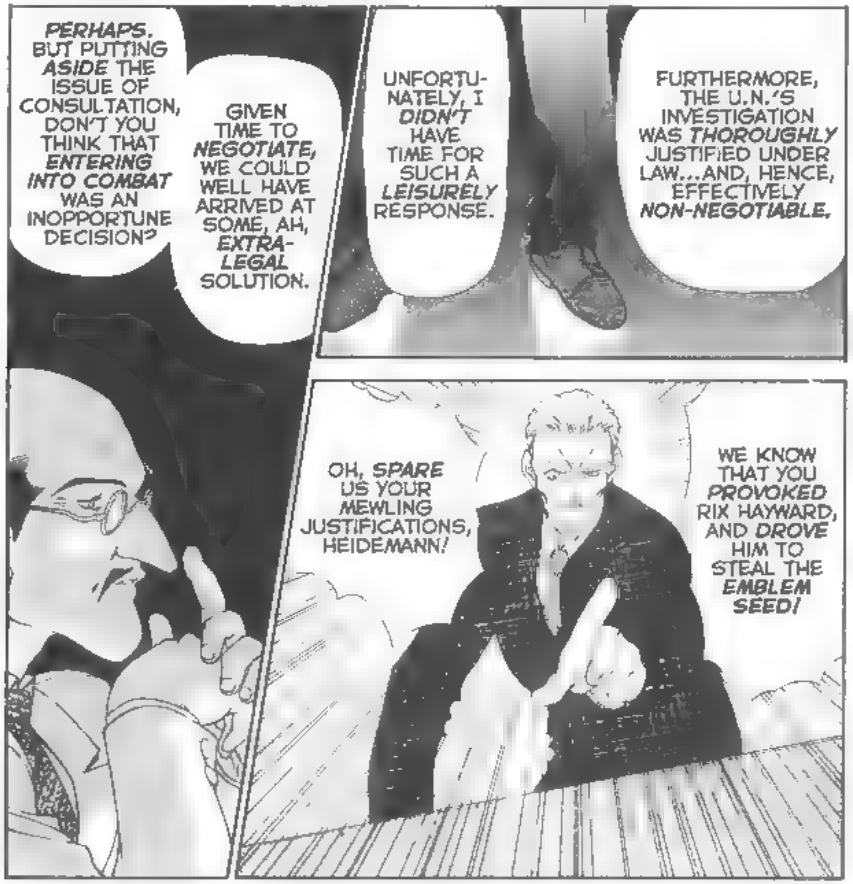
SO, APEP HEIDE-MANN...
...YOU'VE SAID THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO EXPLAIN.
IS THAT STILL YOUR POSITION?

YES.

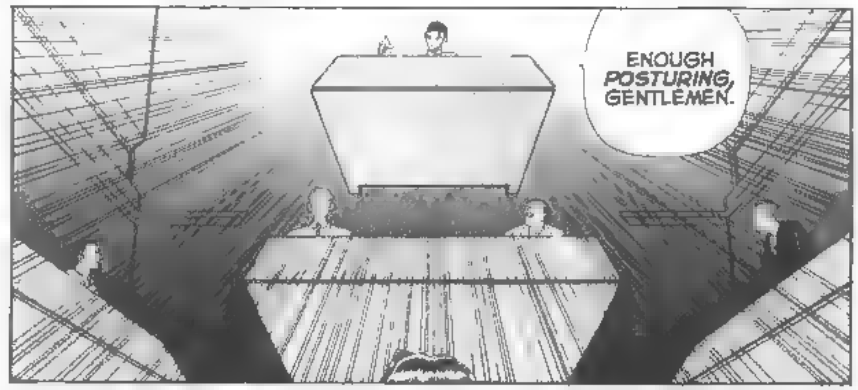
YOU HAVE *NOTHING* TO APOLOGIZE FOR--?!
BAM!
YOU *KILLED* OUR SECURITY OPERATIVES... *TRASHED* OUR RESEARCH CENTER...
...AND *FRACTURED* OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.N.! *HOW DARE YOU!*
PATIENCE, MISTER VOGEL.
I *UNDERSTAND* YOUR FEELINGS. AS HEAD OF SECURITY, YOU LOST *VALUABLE ASSETS* IN THIS, AH, *UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT.*
BUT SINCE *MISTER HAYWARD* AND COMPANY WERE FREELANCE OPERATIVES UNDER *SECRET CONTRACT,* THEIR DEATHS HAVE *NO* IMPACT ON THE FIRM.
NOW, *MISTER HEIDEMANN...*


...UNDERSTAND THAT *DYKSTRA CORPORATION* HAS NO INTEREST IN *PURSUING* YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATHS OF OUR SECURITY OPERATIVES.
WE ALSO CONSIDER *SOME* DEGREE OF DAMAGE TO OUR FACILITIES TO BE AN *ACCEPTABLE PRICE* FOR ACQUIRING *ALIEN TECHNOLOGY.*
HOWEVER, YOUR REGRETTABLE *ALTERCATION* WITH THE U.N. FORCES IS *ENTIRELY* TOO WEIGHTY A MATTER FOR US TO *IGNORE.*
KLAK
KLAK
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO *FIGHT* THEM WITHOUT FIRST *CONSULTING* US?
UNDER THE *CIRCUMSTANCES,* ANY OUTGOING COMMUNICATIONS WOULD *SURELY* HAVE BEEN MONITORED.
AND THAT WOULD HAVE ONLY *INTENSIFIED* THE OF COURSE-- *BASELESS* SUSPICION...
...THAT DYKSTRA CORPORATION IS, IN FACT, *PULLING THE STRINGS* AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

BUT EVEN WITHOUT DIRECT WORD FROM ME...
...SURELY YOUR OWN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SHOULD HAVE ALERTED YOU ABOJT THE IMMINENT U.N. INVESTIGATION ...?

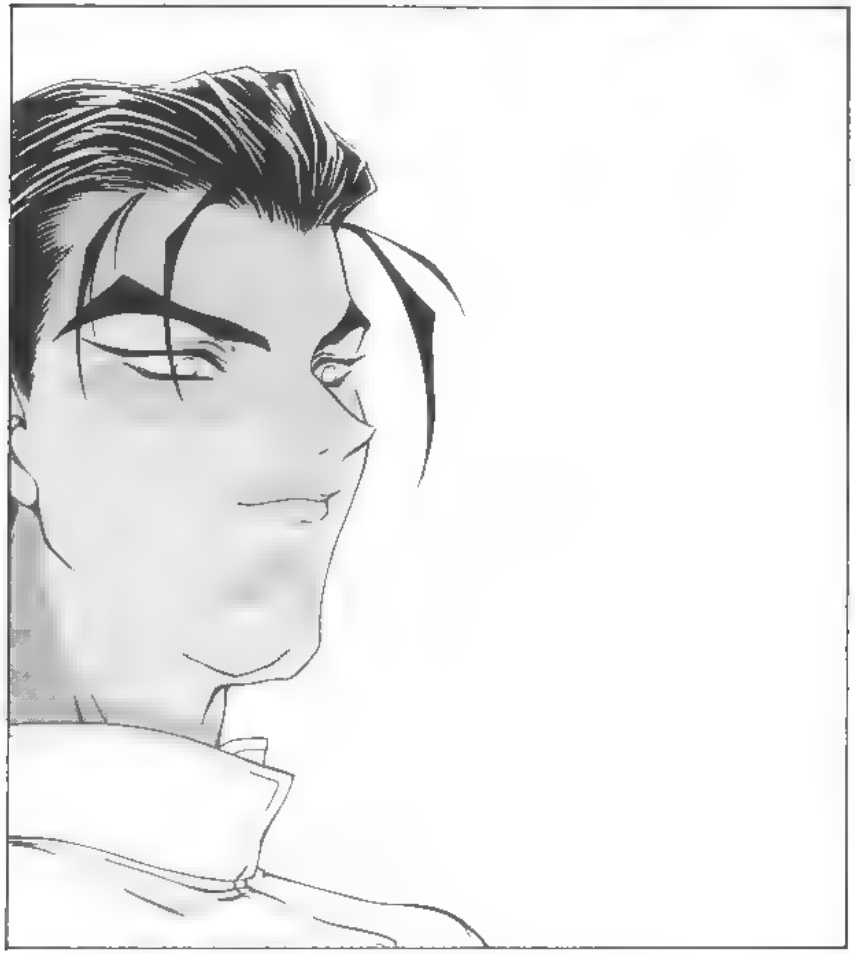

PERHAPS. BUT PUTTING ASIDE THE ISSUE OF CONSULTATION, DON'T YOU THINK THAT ENTERING INTO COMBAT WAS AN INOPPORTUNE DECISION?
GIVEN TIME TO NEGOTIATE, WE COULD WELL HAVE ARRIVED AT SOME, AH, EXTRA-LEGAL SOLUTION.
UNFORTU-NATELY, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR SUCH A LEISURELY RESPONSE.
FURTHERMORE, THE U.N.'S INVESTIGATION WAS THOROUGHLY JUSTIFIED UNDER LAW...AND, HENCE, EFFECTIVELY NON-NEGOTIABLE.
OH, SPARE US YOUR MEWLING JUSTIFICATIONS, HEIDEMANN!
WE KNOW THAT YOU PROVOKED RIX HAYWARD, AND DROVE HIM TO STEAL THE EMBLEM SEED!

THIS LITTLE GAME OF YOURS TRIGGERED THE SO-CALLED LEGAL INVESTI-GATION IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YES. I WAS, IN TRUTH, CARE-LESS.
CARELESS NOT TO HAVE ANTICIPATED THAT DYKSTRA'S VERY FINEST SECURITY OPERATIVES WOULD BRING A U.N. SURVEILLANCE DEVICE INTO MY LAB...

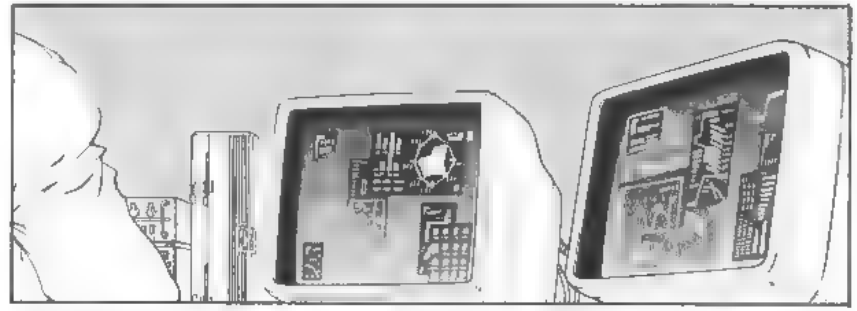

ENOUGH POSTURING, GENTLEMEN.

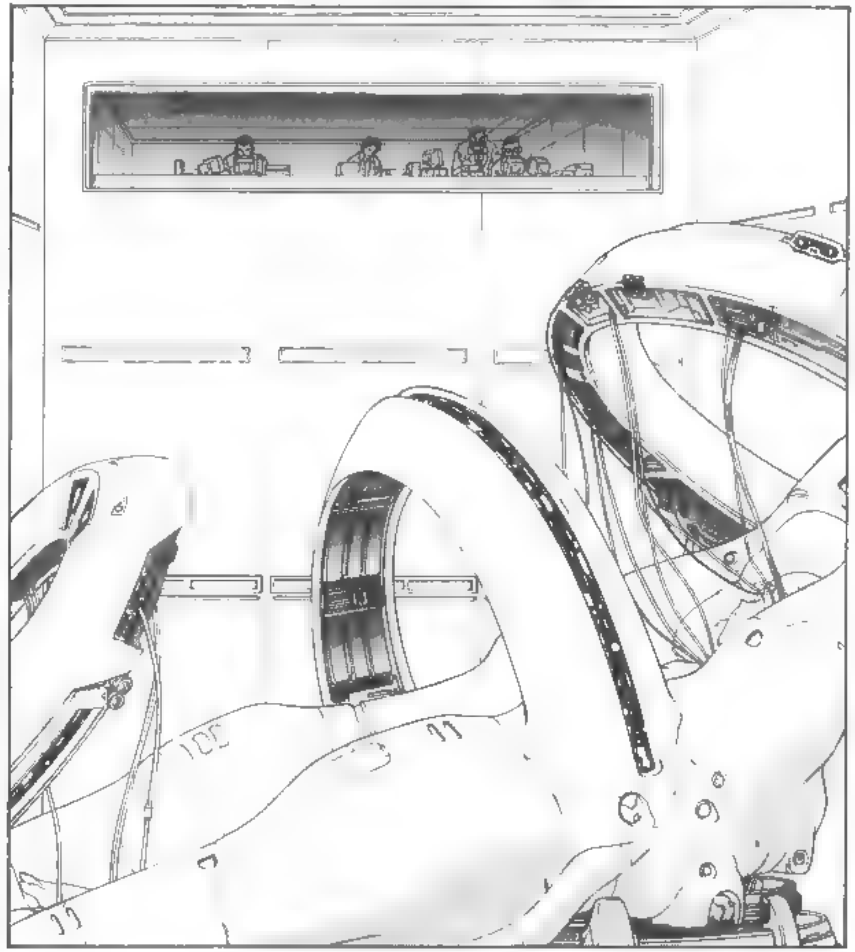
THIS HAS BEEN QUITE AN ENTERTAINING PERFORMANCE, YOUNG HEIDEMANN.

Act 34



Act 34

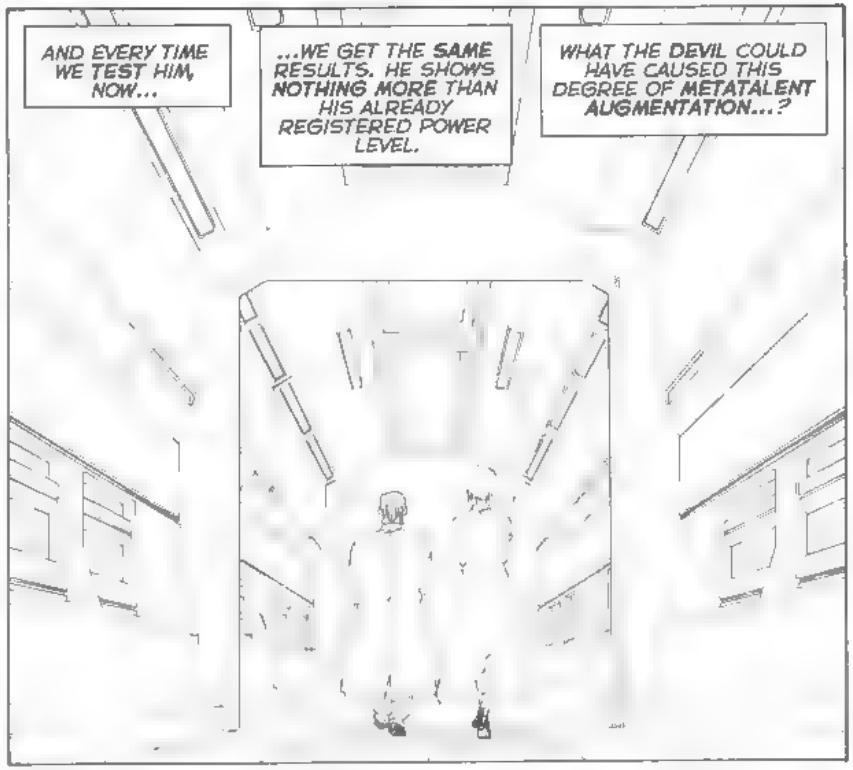


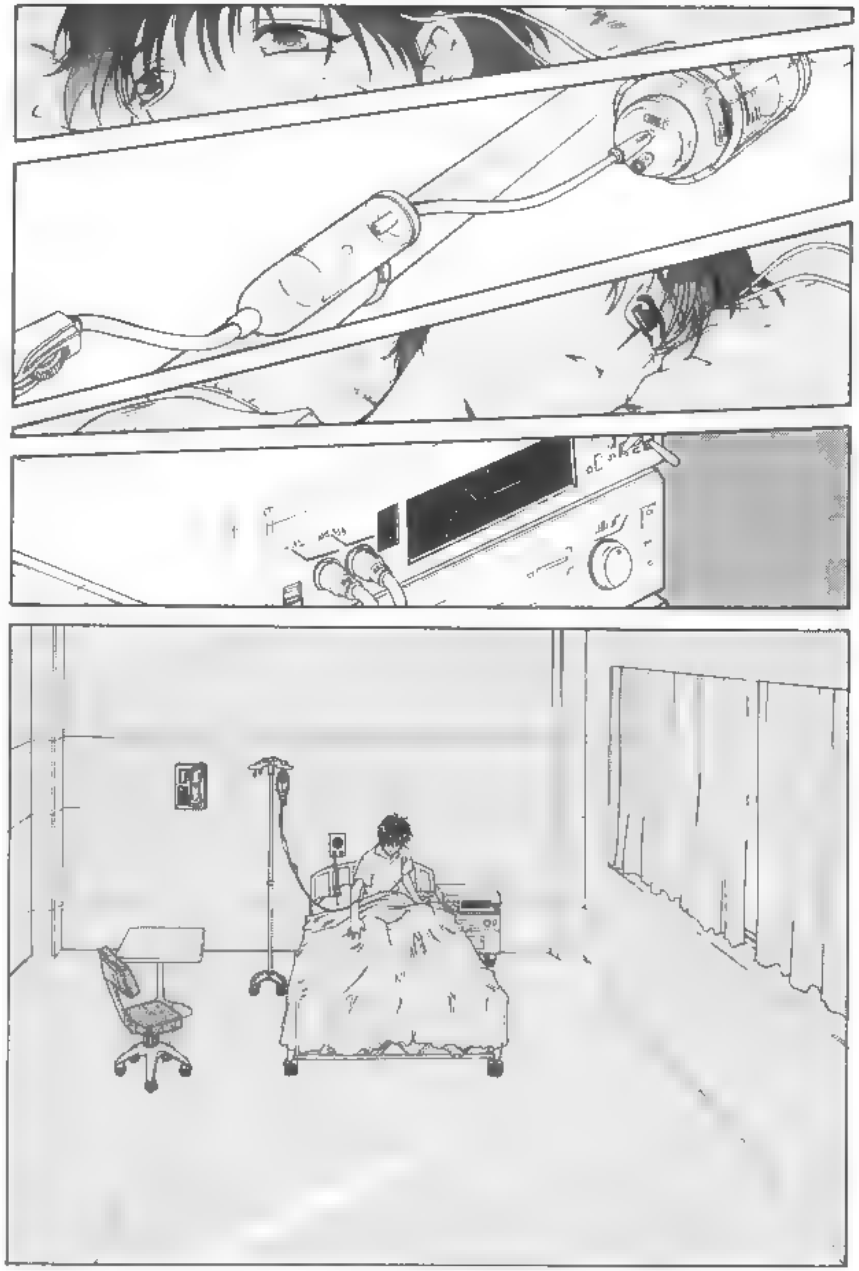


NONE OF HER READINGS ARE OUT OF THE ORDINARY NOW, DOCTOR HEIDEMANN.
HMM... I SEE.
THE PROBLEM, HERE...
QUITE NORMAL, EH...?
...IS WHAT COMES NEXT.
FWAPP
OH, DOCTOR?

ABOUT THAT BOY WE TRANS-FERRED TO THE GENERAL WARD...
...HE'S RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE US TO DO...?
I'LL TALK TO HIM NOW... I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS THAT I WANT ANSWERED.
IF ANYTHING COMES UP, PAGE ME ON CHANNEL SIX.
THAT BOY...
...SUNAO OUMI...

...HE'S REGISTERED AS AN ESPER, BUT NONE OF HIS RECORDS SUGGEST THAT HE'S CAPABLE OF THE INCREDIBLE POWER HE SHOWED YESTERDAY...!
WHOOM


AND EVERY TIME WE TEST HIM, NOW...
...WE GET THE SAME RESULTS. HE SHOWS NOTHING MORE THAN HIS ALREADY REGISTERED POWER LEVEL.
WHAT THE DEVIL COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS DEGREE OF METATALENT AUGMENTATION...?



SHAKK
!

WHAT...
...WHERE AM I...?
AH... YOU'RE UP.
GOOD MORNING.

HOW ARE YOU FEEL-ING?
MISTER SUNAO OUMI, CORRECT?
OH... AREN'T YOU... KEI'S...
...AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL CONSUME YOURSELF, KEI! THE POWER IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU!
KEI!
WHERE'S KEI--?
FWAPP

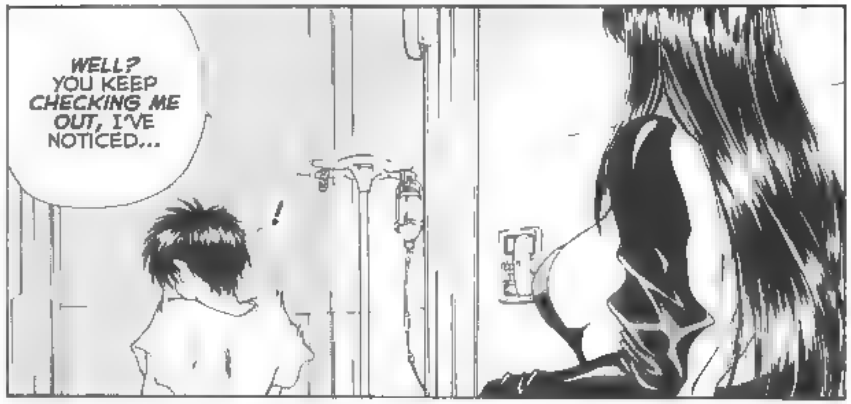
CALM DOWN, SON!
KEI!
KEI IS STILL--
THMPP
SHKPP
EEK!
NFFF
WHOA--
PSHHT
THMPp
FWMPP
--WHOA--
WHMFF

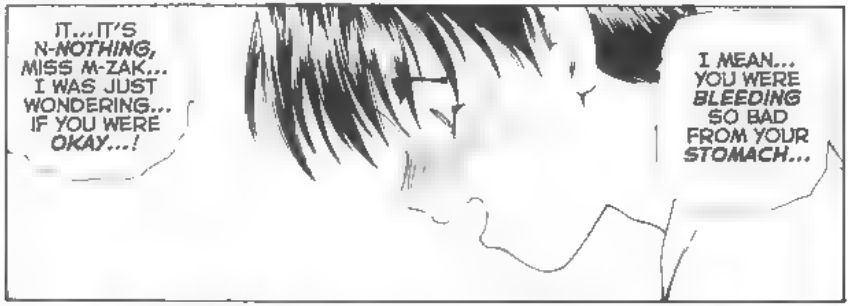
WELL, WELL.
MMF
IS THIS HOW YOU SAY HELLO...? YOU JUST GO FOR THE GUSTO, NOW, DON'T YOU...?
!
DON'T WORRY... KEI IS JUST FINE... ALL RIGHT?
RELAX, SUNAO.

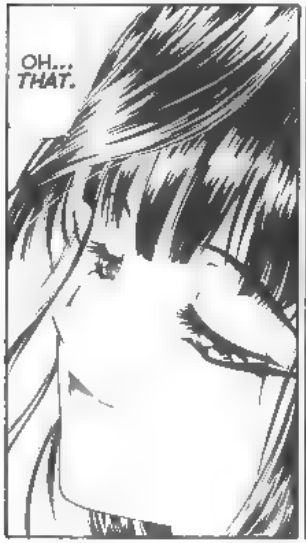
KLAK
KLAK
HERE YOU ARE...
OH...UM, THANKS ...!
I'LL LEAVE YOU THREE TO TALK...
SLRRP

SO...SUNAO, YOU SAY THESE REMARKABLY INTENSIFIED POWERS OF YOURS APPEARED ONLY AFTER YOU MET KEI...?
FMPP
...
WELL...I SUPPOSE I MIGHT'VE ALWAYS HAD THE POTENTIAL... I GUESS...
...BUT I'D DEFINITELY NEVER NOTICED I HAD ANY POWERS LIKE THIS BEFORE I MET HER...!
MMM? WHAT'S WRONG, SUNAO?

Act 35


WELL? YOU KEEP CHECKING ME OUT, I'VE NOTICED...
!


IT... IT'S N-NOTHING, MISS M-ZAK... I WAS JUST WONDERING... IF YOU WERE OKAY...!
I MEAN... YOU WERE BLEEDING SO BAD FROM YOUR STOMACH...

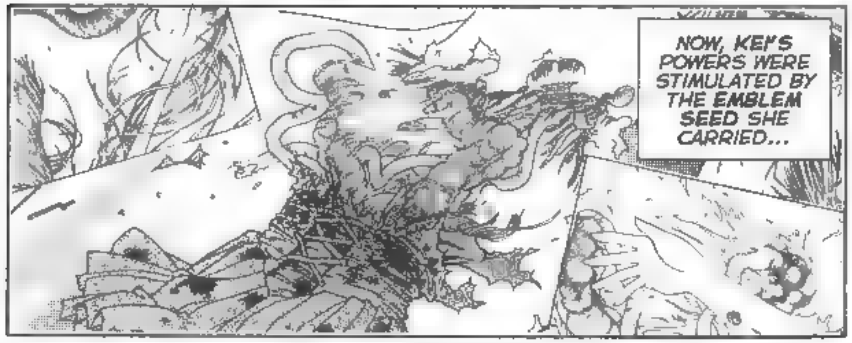

OH... THAT.

RIGHT. FIRST, YOU FACE-PLANT BETWEEN MY BREASTS...
...AND NOW YOU'RE ALL CONCERNED ABOUT MY BELLY, MMM?

WANNA SEE MY SCAR...?

N-NO--! TH-TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I--
SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SCAR.

ANOTHER STRIKING DEMONSTRATION OF THE SENTINELS' ASTOUNDING POWERS.
ALTHOUGH MISS M-ZAK'S HEALING IS ONLY A MINOR FEAT, COMPARED TO THE OTHER SPECTACLE YOU WITNESSED: KEI'S ASTONISHING RECONSTRUCTION.
IMAGINE REBUILDING A BRAIN FROM NOTHINGNESS, REPLETE WITH PERSONALITY AND MEMORIES ALMOST ENTIRELY UNALTERED... THE ALIENS' CAPABILITIES ALMOST BEGGAR THE IMAGINATION...


NOW, KEI'S POWERS WERE STIMULATED BY THE EMBLEM SEED SHE CARRIED...

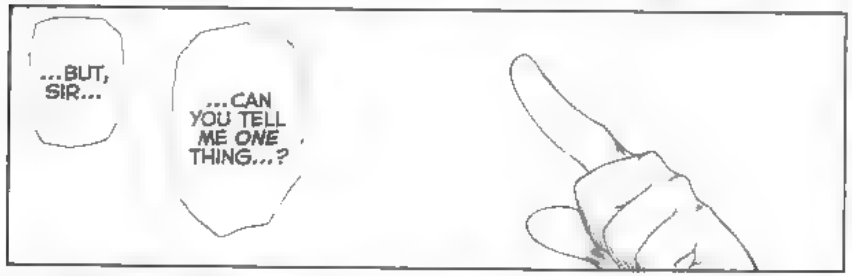
...HAS THE SEED'S PRESENCE AFFECTED THIS BOY'S META-TALENTS AS WELL?
UM... SO THEY'RE ALIENS, ARE THEY...? WHAT INCREDIBLE TECHNO-LOGY...!
JUST THE LITTLE I'VE SEEN IS FAR AHEAD OF ANYTHING HUMANITY HAS DEVISED... IT'S LIKE... MAGIC.
CAN THAT OCCUR, EVEN TEMPORARILY, IN A NON-SERAPH? IT'S CERTAINLY UNPRECE-DENTED...

NO WONDER EVERY-ONE'S AFTER IT...
IF THIS WAS MERELY AN ISSUE OF TECHNOLOGY, THE U.N. WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO MOVE SO FORCE-FULLY...

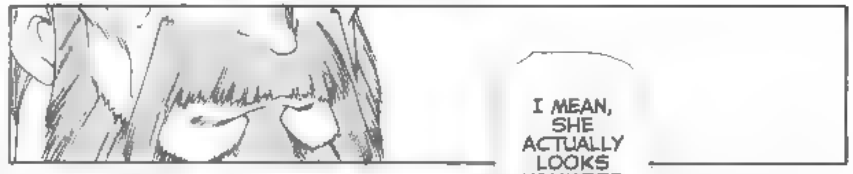
HUH?

OH... WELL ...!
SO...I GUESS THERE ARE THINGS A CIVILIAN SHOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT, RIGHT...?

YOU'RE HARDLY A "CIVILIAN" ANYMORE, SUNAO. AND YET...
AH... NO, THAT'S OKAY, SIR...!
I WON'T ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS.
BUT...

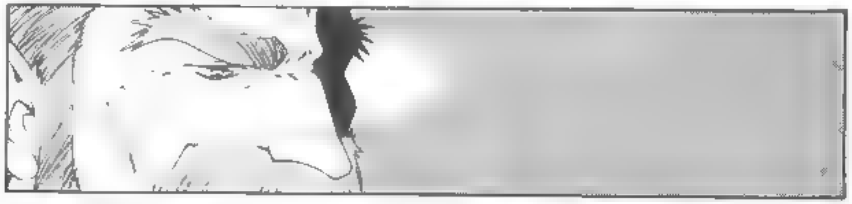

...BUT, SIR...
...CAN YOU TELL ME ONE THING...?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO KEI...?
TO BEGIN WITH... WHY HASN'T SHE AGED...?


I MEAN, SHE ACTUALLY LOOKS YOUNGER TODAY THAN SHE DID TWO YEARS AGO...!

AND NOW, I SEE HER TORN TO SHREDS, AND SHE COMES RIGHT BACK TO LIFE...LIKE MAGIC...!
AND... WHAT ABOUT YESTERDAY ...?
BACK AT THE LAB...SHE SEEMED TO SPONTANEOUSLY GROW WINGS, JUST LIKE THAT APEP GUY HAD...! LIKE AN ANGEL...

BUT... HOW...
...HOW CAN THAT BE...? WHAT DOES IT MEAN...?



SUNAO.
YOU SAID THAT YOU FIRST CAME TO THE MOON TO VISIT KEI'S GRAVE, DIDN'T YOU?

HAHH?
UM... WELL, YES, MA'AM...!

LISTEN.
KEI...OR THE KEI YOU KNEW TWO YEARS AGO, AT LEAST...SHE'S DEAD. WHY DON'T YOU ACCEPT THAT, SUNAO...AND GO BACK TO THE EARTH...?

AT THIS POINT WE CAN STILL RETURN YOU TO YOUR OLD LIFE, YOU KNOW.
UNDER CONSTANT OBSERVATION, OF COURSE. AND AFTER THEY'VE PRACTICALLY DISSECTED YOU, NO DOUBT...

...BUT EVEN THAT'S BETTER... BETTER THAN...
BUT... I...

YOU WERE SAVING UP TO BUY A TICKET HOME, WEREN'T YOU? WELL, I CAN GIVE YOU THAT TICKET NOW, DAMN IT!
JUST... GO HOME!
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO DO WITH KEI... OR ME... YOU'LL... YOU'LL...

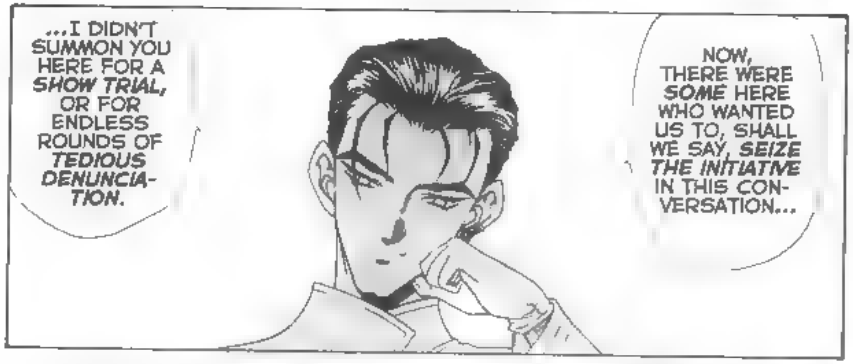
YOU'LL DIE...

...AND I COULDN'T BEAR THAT...

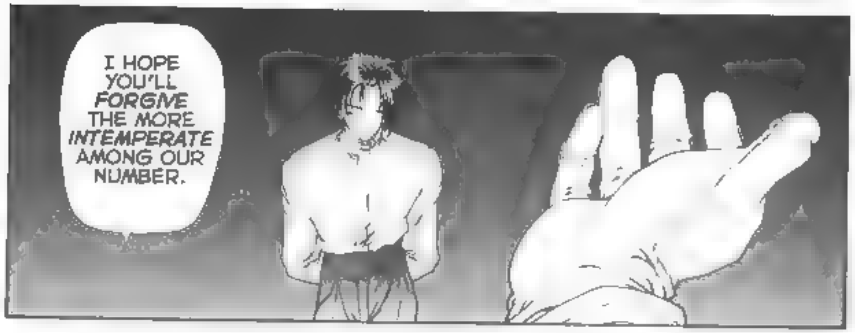
NOT YOU, SUNAO...

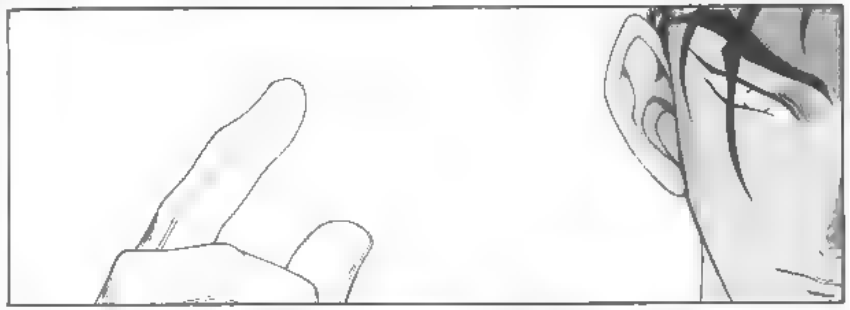
...NOT YOU...

PSHHNK
"UNDERSTAND, YOUNG HEIDEMANN..."


...I DIDN'T SUMMON YOU HERE FOR A *SHOW TRIAL,* OR FOR ENDLESS ROUNDS OF *TEDIOUS DENUNCIATION.*
NOW, THERE WERE *SOME* HERE WHO WANTED US TO, SHALL WE SAY, *SEIZE THE INITIATIVE* IN THIS CONVERSATION...

...PRESUMABLY MEANING A *FORCEFUL* APPROACH...WHICH *MOST* OF US AGREE WOULD HAVE ONLY LED TO MORE... *UNPLEASANTNESS.*
BUT SUCH *OVERREACTION* WAS, OF COURSE, BASED ON FEAR OF YOUR *CONSIDERABLE POWER.* WIPING OUT AN ELITE U.N. COMBAT TEAM *SINGLE-HANDEDLY,* AND SUCH.


I HOPE YOU'LL *FORGIVE* THE MORE *INTEMPERATE* AMONG OUR NUMBER.



MIGHT I THEN ASK YOUR *REAL* PURPOSE, HERE, CHAIRMAN AL-HALIRHA?
CHINGG

JUST AS YOU *DESIRED,* YOUNG HEIDE-MANN...
...DYKSTRA CORPORATION WILL BE HAPPY TO *PURCHASE* YOUR SERVICES.

PRECISELY *WHAT* DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, MISTER CHAIRMAN...?
AH...HAVE WE PERHAPS *PENETRATED* YOUR AIR OF *EPICENE DETACHMENT*...?
MISTER *WELLER*.
SIR.
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER ACTING DIRECTOR *APEP HEIDEMANN*.
WE'RE AWARE OF PENDING WARRANTS FOR YOUR ARREST ON *NINE* DIFFERENT CHARGES AT THE PRESENT.
ADDITIONAL, AND FAR MORE *SEVERE* CHARGES, ARE BEING CONTEMPLATED BY *MULTIPLE* AUTHORITIES.
HOWEVER... IF YOU *TRANSFER* TO US, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, *ALL* THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY YOU ACQUIRE, *WITHOUT* EXCEPTION...
...WE'RE PREPARED TO ENSURE THAT *ALL* OF THESE CHARGES WILL BE WITHDRAWN.
AND FURTHERMORE, WE WILL *OFFICIALLY* APPOINT YOU AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER, WITH *FULL* FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

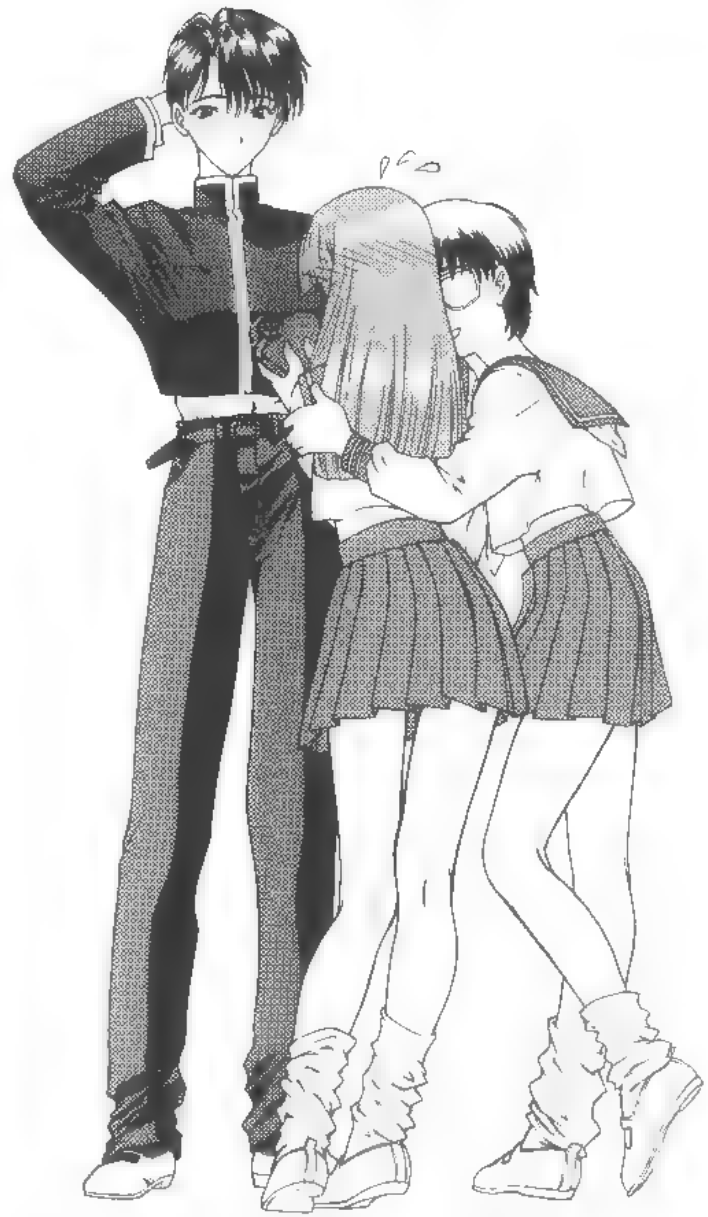
A *PLEASANT* OFFER, BUT RATHER *MEANINGLESS* TO ME, I'M AFRAID.
AFTER ALL, I COULD *EASILY* DEAL WITH ALL SUCH TRIVIALITIES BY *MYSELF*...
...BY USING THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY THAT *SHATTERED THE U.N.'S ELITE FORCES*, COULDN'T I...?
PLEASE *CEASE* THIS PERFORMANCE.
KCHINGG
IF YOU *MEANT* TO UNLEASH BRUTE FORCE IN SUCH A MANNER, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE *COME* HERE.
YOUNG HEIDEMANN... SO FAR, THIS *ENTIRE* AFFAIR, INCLUDING OUR *PROPOSAL* HERE TODAY, IS FOLLOWING *YOUR* SCRIPT TO THE LETTER.
IN ORDER TO CONTINUE YOUR RESEARCH *WITHOUT* OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, YOU'VE EFFECTIVELY STAGED A *FLASHY*, IF *BLOODY*, ACT OF *PUBLIC RELATIONS*...
...AND *SUCCEEDED* IN BRINGING DYKSTRA TO THE *NEGOTIATING TABLE*. AM I *WRONG* IN THIS INTERPRETATION? I THINK *NOT*.

WELL. THAT WENT RATHER BETTER THAN I HAD EXPECTED.
THE SITUATION WAS TOUCH AND GO, FOR A WHILE...
...BUT AT LEAST SOME OF DYKSTRA'S BOARD MEMBERS AREN'T COMPLETE FOOLS.
SUCH FULSOME PRAISE. I'M HONORED, YOUNG HEIDEMANN.
AL-HALIRHA—?!

QUITE AS YOU SUPPOSED, THE DEFEAT OF THAT U.N. TEAM WAS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE FOR WE AT DYKSTRA.
IMPOSSIBLE!
I WAS ALONE IN THIS ELEVATOR, ONLY A MOMENT AGO...!
HOW DID HE--?
HAD THE STATUS QUO CONTINUED, THE MOON WOULD EFFECTIVELY HAVE REMAINED EARTH'S SLAVE, ITS RESOURCES CONTINUING TO BE MILKED DRY, EVEN AFTER THE GRANTING OF LUNAR INDEPENDENCE.
THE PEOPLE OF THE MOON, LIVING IN THIS MERE ONE-SIXTH OF EARTH'S GRAVITY, CAN'T HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT THEY COULD NEVER DEFEAT A PEOPLE STRENGTHENED BY LIFELONG EXPOSURE TO A FULL GEE.
OR RATHER, THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED TO THINK THAT. BUT NOW...
...THIS MISTAKEN BELIEF HAS BEEN DIS-CREDITED.
THE TOUGHEST SOLDIERS OF THE ONE GEE EARTH, CRUSHED BY THE POWER OF THE MOON. WHEN WORD OF THIS INCIDENT GETS OUT...
OH... DID MY SUDDEN APPEAR-ANCE HERE STARTLE YOU?
SURELY IT ISN'T ODD FOR THE PRESIDENT OF DYKSTRA CORPORATION TO USE HIS OWN VIP ELEVATOR ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, IS IT...?

OF COURSE NOT, MISTER PRESIDENT. THIS IS YOUR BUILDING, AFTER ALL.
SKRKK
AND YOU'VE MERELY BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH IT. QUITE.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE DON'T TRUST YOU FULLY, YOUNG HEIDEMANN. NO DOUBT YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT US, AND YET...
...I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP... SO LONG AS OUR INTERESTS COINCIDE, THAT IS.
....
I COULDN'T AGREE MORE, MISTER PRESIDENT.

Act 36

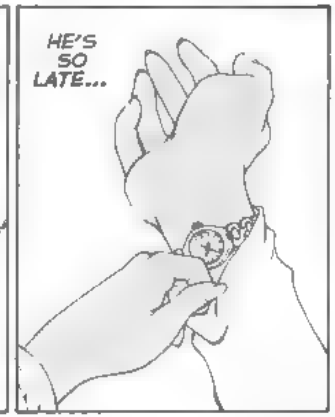


A U.N. SPOKES-PERSON REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE INCIDENT...
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT
UN

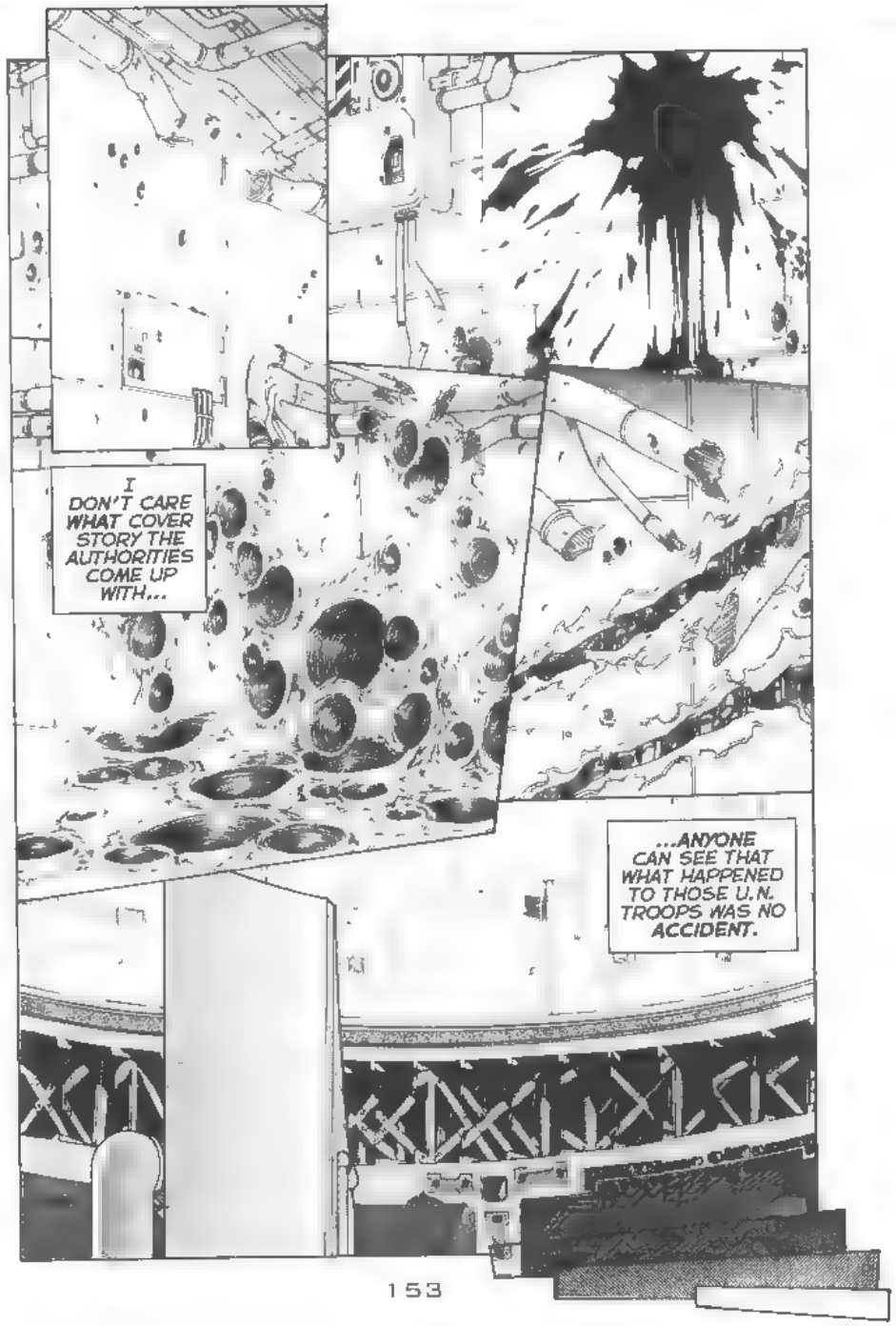
...BUT RUMORS ARE SWIRLING THAT THIS TRAGEDY MAY HAVE BEEN A DISASTROUS ATTEMPT BY THE DYKSTRA CORPORATION'S ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTER TO EXPERIMENT WITH PROHIBITED TECHNOLOGY.
TONIGHT, AS POLICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES CONTINUE THEIR ON-SITE INVESTIGATION, THE TRUTH REMAINS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.
KEEP OUT

...WE STILL HAVE NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM EITHER GOVERNMENTAL OR DYKSTRA CORPORATION SOURCES TO CONFIRM OR DENY REPORTS OF HEAVY CASUALTIES.
FULLY TWO DAYS AFTER THIS BIZARRE EVENT TOOK PLACE...
KEEP OU
NN

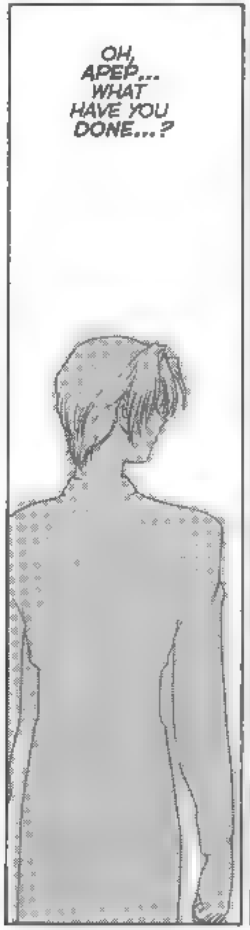
THIS IS PRISCILLA GRANT...
...REPORTING FROM ALDRIN GROVE PARK.
BREEP

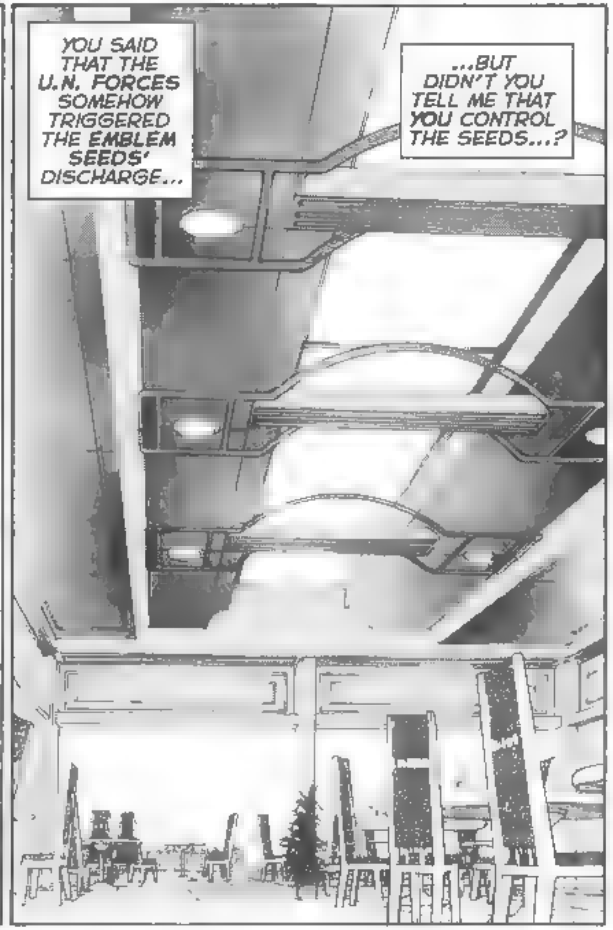

HE'S SO LATE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE APEP'S BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE A BOARD OF INQUIRY...!
SIGHS
WHAT'S BECOME OF HIM?
HOW...
...HOW COULD YESTERDAY'S NIGHTMARE HAVE HAPPENED...?

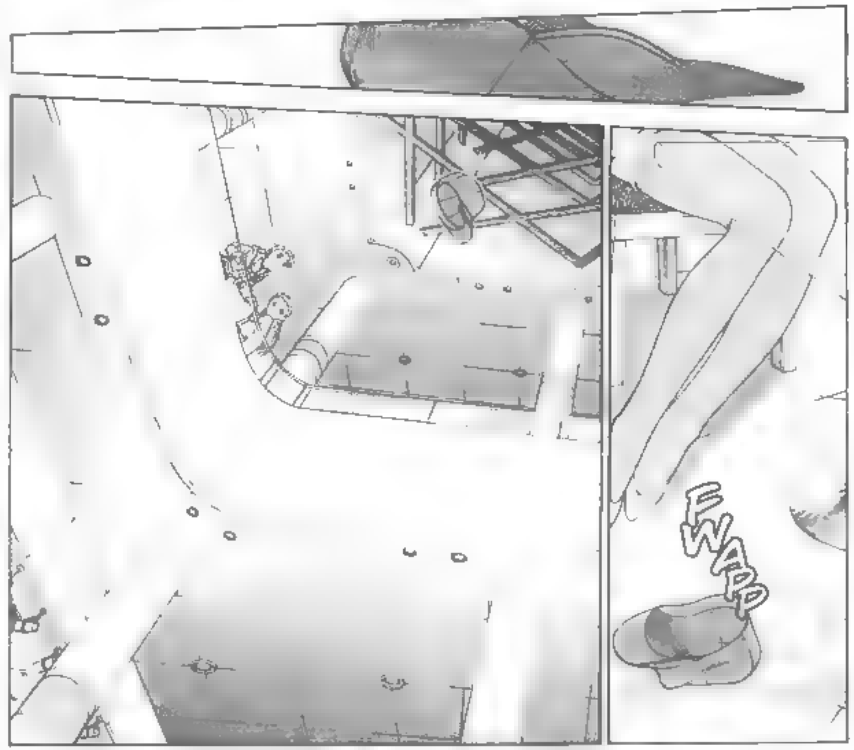

I DON'T CARE WHAT COVER STORY THE AUTHORITIES COME UP WITH...
...ANYONE CAN SEE THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE U.N. TROOPS WAS NO ACCIDENT.

THE STORY WILL GET OUT, EVEN WITH THE IMPOSITION OF THAT GAG ORDER... SOMEBODY'S GOING TO TALK...!

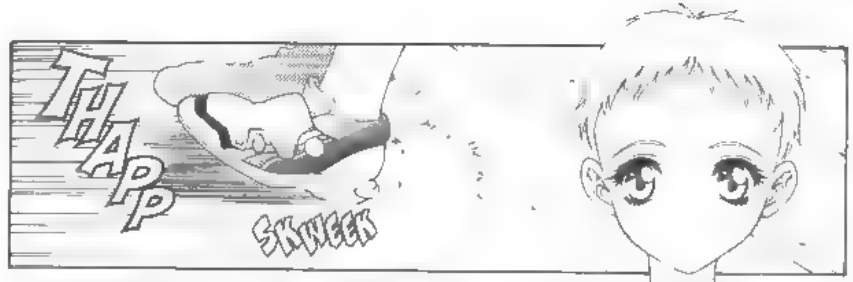

OH, APEP... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...?

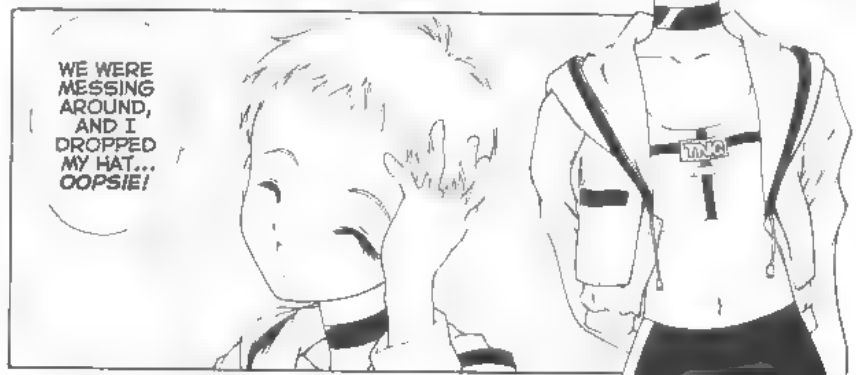

YOU SAID THAT THE U.N. FORCES SOMEHOW TRIGGERED THE EMBLEM SEEDS' DISCHARGE...
...BUT DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU CONTROL THE SEEDS...?

OH, APEP...
I'M SO SCARED, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...


FWAPP

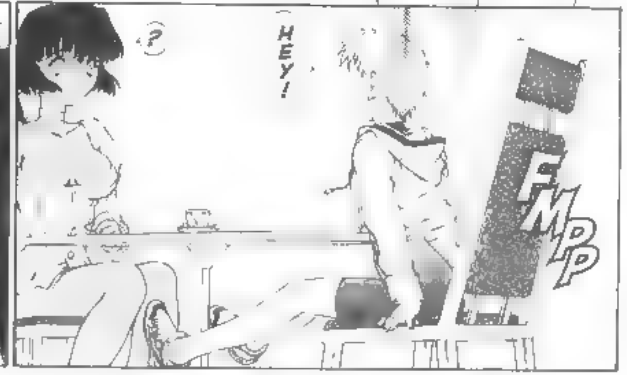
SORRY!
I'LL COME GET IT, OKAY?


THAPP
SKWEEK


WE WERE MESSING AROUND, AND I DROPPED MY HAT... OOPSIE!

HERE YOU ARE...
THANKS!

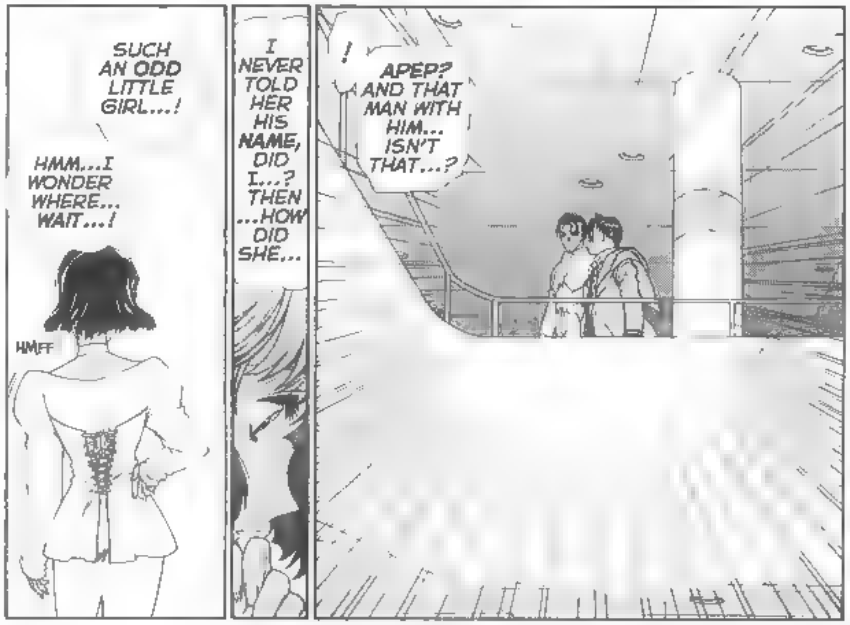
HMM...


HEY!
?
FMPP

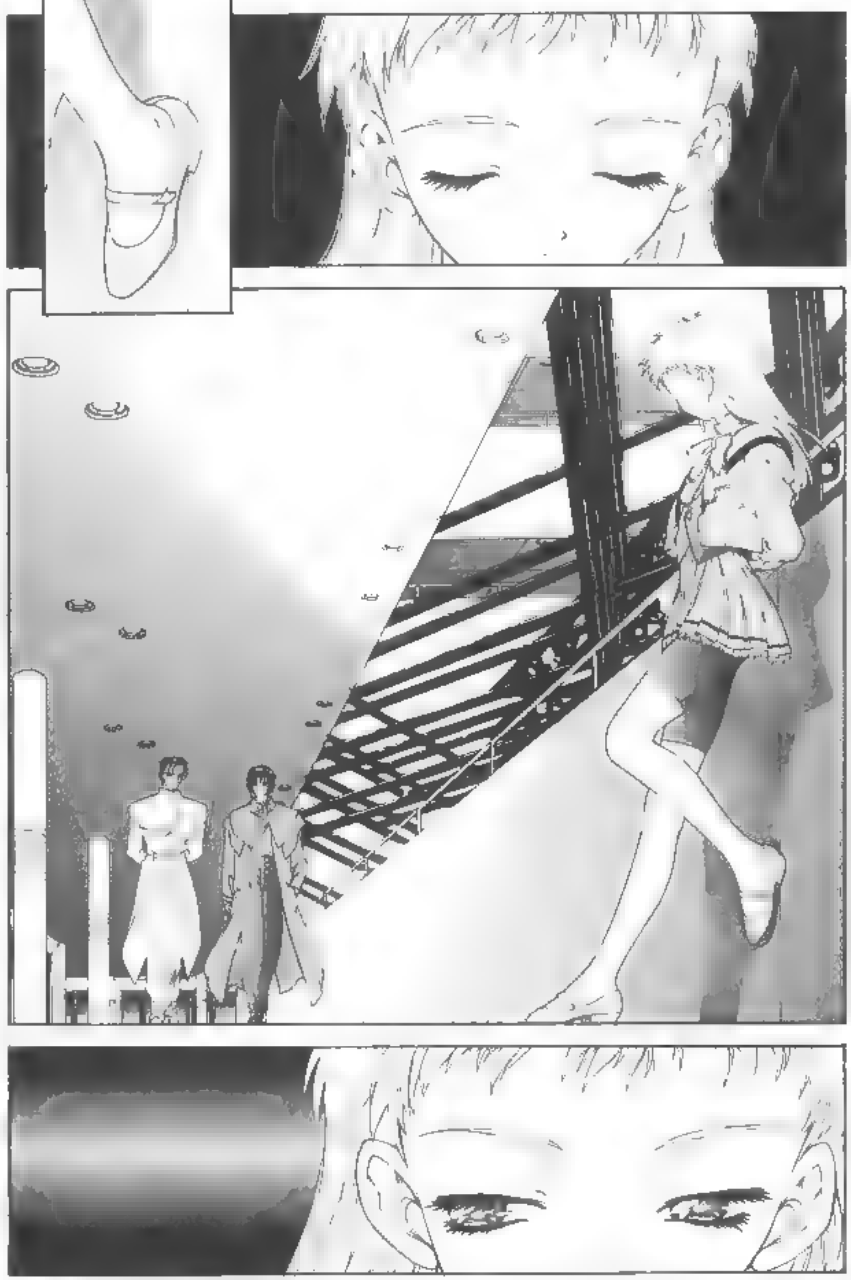
HEE, HEE, HEE...YOU'RE A KNOCKOUT, SIS! I BET ALL THE GUYS ARE TOTALLY CRAZY FOR YOU, HUH?
UM... NOT REALLY ...!
HUH? WHO IS THIS GIRL...?
I MEAN, YOUR, UM... THINGS... THEY'RE AMAZING, YOU KNOW?
YOU HAVE TO TELL ME... HOW DID YOU GET THEM SO BIG?
?!
I HEARD THAT IF YOU LET GUYS PLAY WITH THEM A LOT, THEY GET BIGGER AND--
S-SEE HERE...!
THAT'S NO WAY FOR A CHILD TO TALK...!
BAMM
OOPS!
OH, HOW CUTE... YOU'RE BLUSHING!
WH-WHY YOU LITTLE--
SO SENSITIVE ABOUT IT, TOO...
HEE HEE
HMM...ARE YOU UPSET BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR BOYFRIEND HAVEN'T, YOU KNOW, DONE IT YET...?
....
DOOM

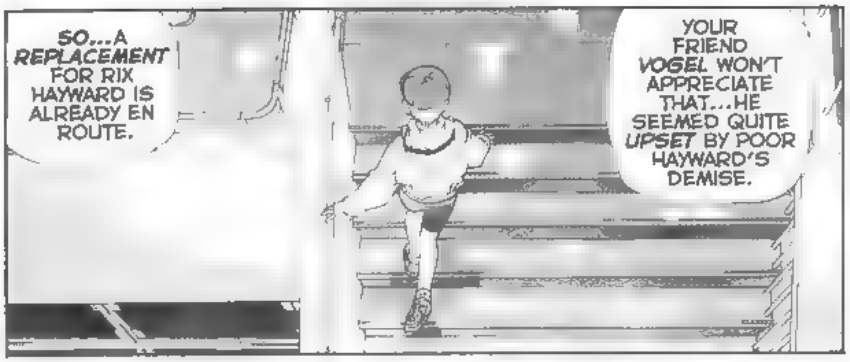
FLIP FLOP
HONESTLY!... WHY AM I GETTING SO UPSET? SHE'S JUST A CHILD...
...
...
..
ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY HAVE A BOYFRIEND, JUST SOMEONE WHO... WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW HE FEELS ABOUT ME...!
IN FACT, I NEVER KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING, I'M AFRAID...!
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT, ALL RIGHT?
SO... IS HE, LIKE, GOOD-LOOKING ...?
OH, YES. VERY.
AHH!!
I FORGOT! I LEFT SOMEBODY UPSTAIRS... GOTTA BAIL!
KLAKK

BYE, SIS!
SAY HI TO APEP FOR ME, OKAY?

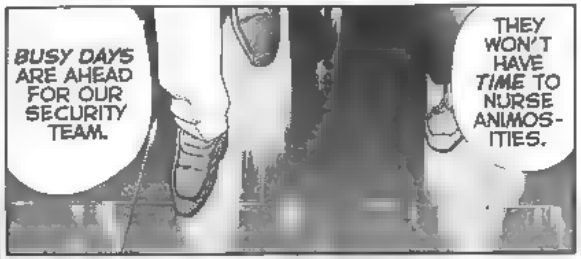

SUCH AN ODD LITTLE GIRL...!
HMM...I WONDER WHERE... WAIT...!
HMFF
I NEVER TOLD HER HIS NAME, DID I...? THEN ...HOW DID SHE...
!
APEP? AND THAT MAN WITH HIM... ISN'T THAT...?

ACT 37




SO...A REPLACEMENT FOR RIX HAYWARD IS ALREADY EN ROUTE.
YOUR FRIEND VOGEL WON'T APPRECIATE THAT...HE SEEMED QUITE UPSET BY POOR HAYWARD'S DEMISE.

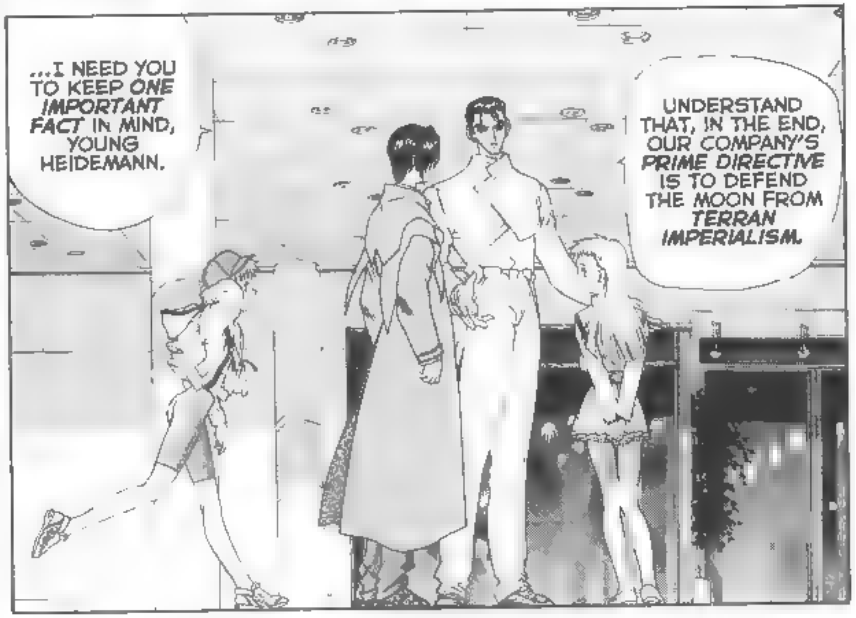
I DO RUN A BUSINESS, YOU KNOW.
THE TENDER FEELINGS OF MY EMPLOYEES AREN'T MY CONCERN.

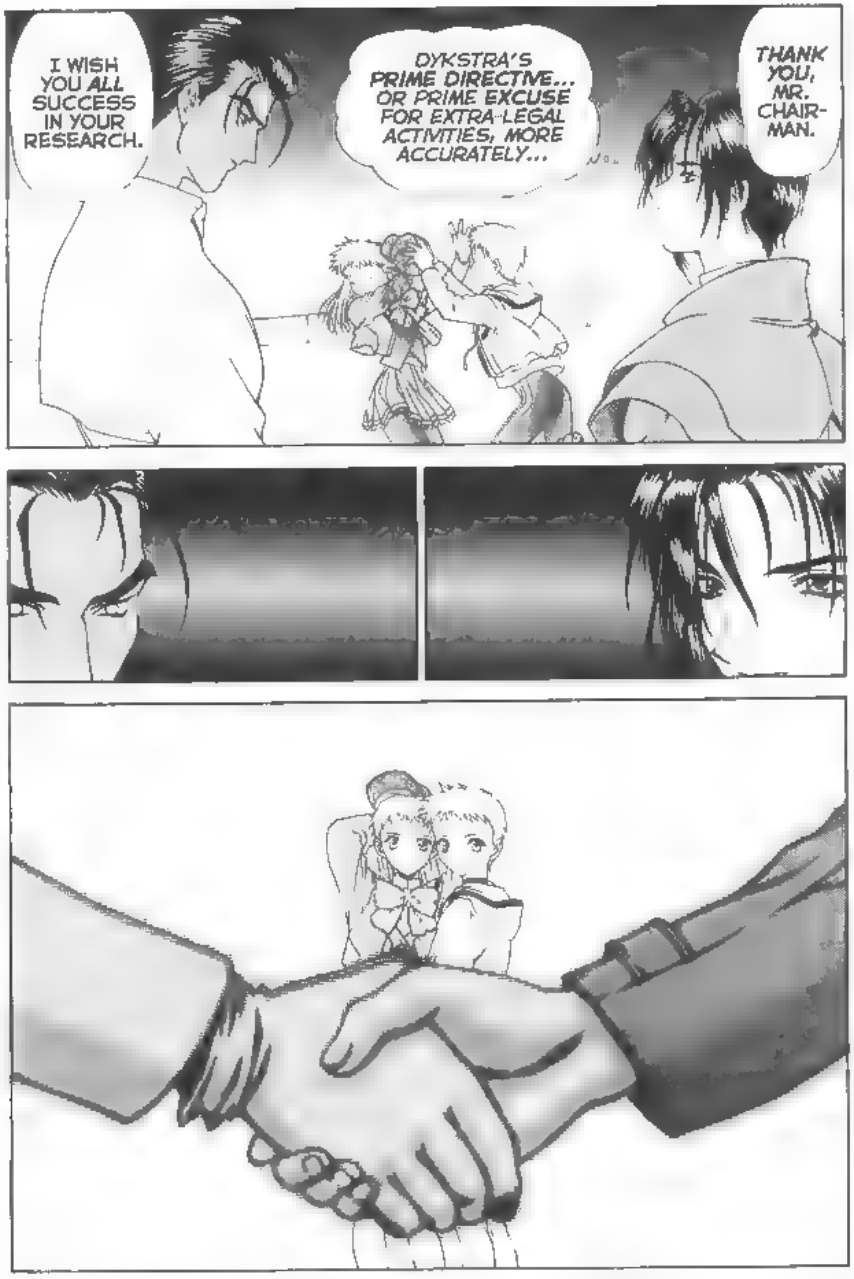

BUSY DAYS ARE AHEAD FOR OUR SECURITY TEAM.
THEY WON'T HAVE TIME TO NURSE ANIMOSITIES.

AH... I SEE.

SO DYKSTRA CORPORATION WAS ALREADY ENACTING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE...
...WITH OR WITHOUT ME.

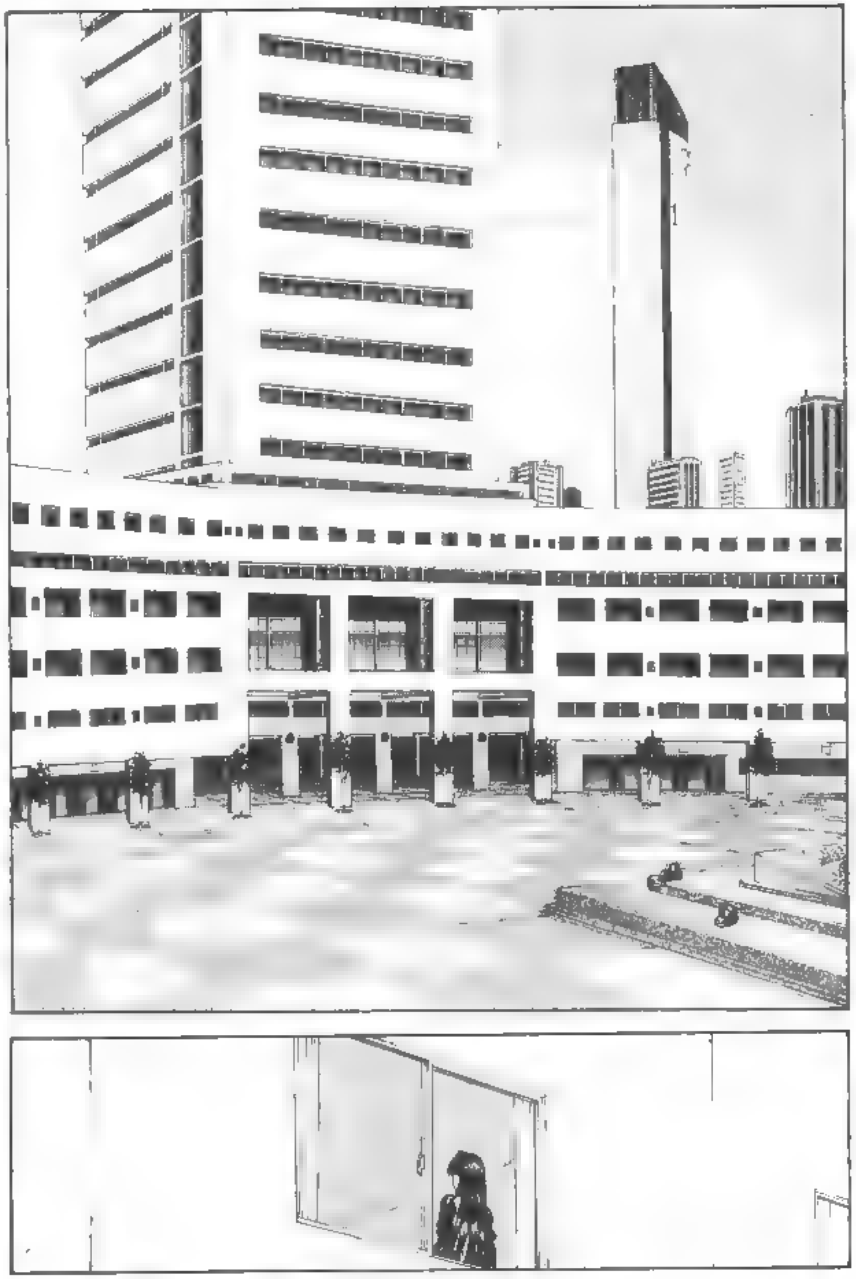
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MISTER CHAIRMAN...
...I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND TO.
AH, BUT OF COURSE.
ONLY, ONE LAST THING...


...I NEED YOU TO KEEP ONE IMPORTANT FACT IN MIND, YOUNG HEIDEMANN.
UNDERSTAND THAT, IN THE END, OUR COMPANY'S PRIME DIRECTIVE IS TO DEFEND THE MOON FROM TERRAN IMPERIALISM.


I WISH YOU ALL SUCCESS IN YOUR RESEARCH.
DYKSTRA'S PRIME DIRECTIVE... OR PRIME EXCUSE FOR EXTRA-LEGAL ACTIVITIES, MORE ACCURATELY...
THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR-MAN.

KLAK KLAK
APEP!
AH... FAWN.
OH, APEP... I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU...!
IS... IS EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT ...?
AH... PARDON? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FAWN?
WELL, THAT FRIGHT-ENING MAN YOU WERE TALKING WITH... HE'S DYKSTRA'S CHAIRMAN, ISN'T HE?
I WAS SO WORRIED THAT THE BOARD OF INQUIRY WENT AGAINST YOU... I DIDN'T KNOW IF... IF...

DID I ALARM YOU, MY DEAR? I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
I'M FINE, FAWN. EVERY-THING'S JUST FINE.
YOU COULD EVEN SAY THAT I'VE BEEN... PROMOTED.
OH... R-REALLY...? THAT'S WONDER-FUL, APEP...!
IT'S JUST THAT, WELL... YOU LOOK SO PALE... AND YOU'RE SWEATING, TOO...!
SWEATING...? AM I, NOW?



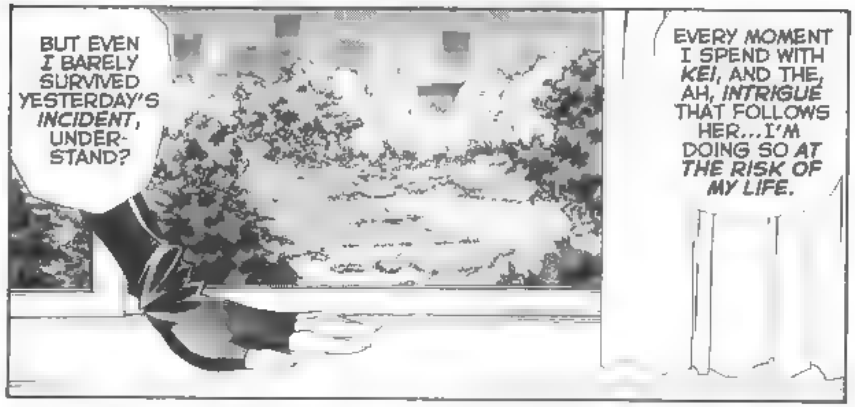
WELL...
...I GUESS YOU'RE *RIGHT*, MISS M-ZAK.

I COULD...
...I COULD *DIE*, I KNOW.
IN JUST THE SHORT TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN *REUNITED* WITH KEI...
...I CAN'T EVEN *COUNT* HOW MANY TIMES I'VE NEARLY BEEN *KILLED*...!
BUT EVEN *SO*--!
IF I *LEAVE* NOW, I'LL *REGRET* IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
SHH
KREEK
EVEN IF STAYING HERE ON THE MOON *DOES* KILL ME--

--EVEN IF EVERY CHOICE IS A DANGEROUS ONE--
--I'D RATHER KNOW THE TRUTH!

OH, SUNAO... DO YOU LOVE KEI SO MUCH...?

LISTEN TO ME, SUNAO OUMI! I'M THE BEST ENHANCED OPERATIVE THE U.N. HAS, ALL RIGHT?
I'VE NEVER BEEN DEFEATED IN ONE ON-ONE COMBAT BEFORE... NEVER. I'M DAMN NEAR SUPERHUMAN, IF YOU'LL PARDON THE IMMODESTY.


BUT EVEN I BARELY SURVIVED YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT, UNDERSTAND?
EVERY MOMENT I SPEND WITH KEI, AND THE, AH, INTRIGUE THAT FOLLOWS HER... I'M DOING SO AT THE RISK OF MY LIFE.

AND THE ODDS ARE CONSIDERABLY WORSENED WITH A DAMNED AMATEUR LIKE YOU SLOWING ME DOWN!
LET ME BE BLUNT, SUNAO-- YOU'RE IN THE WAY.

GO BACK TO THE EARTH, WON'T YOU?

AT LEAST THAT WAY, YOU'LL LIVE...!
EVEN IF I CAN NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...
...JUST KNOWING THAT YOU'RE OUT THERE, ALIVE AND WELL...
...JUST KNOWING THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH...

MISS M-ZAK, I HATE TO DISAGREE...BUT THE U.N. ALMOST CERTAINLY WON'T LET THIS BOY GO.
TOO MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED, I'M AFRAID.
AFTER ALL, IT APPEARS THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO STOP THE SENTINELS...

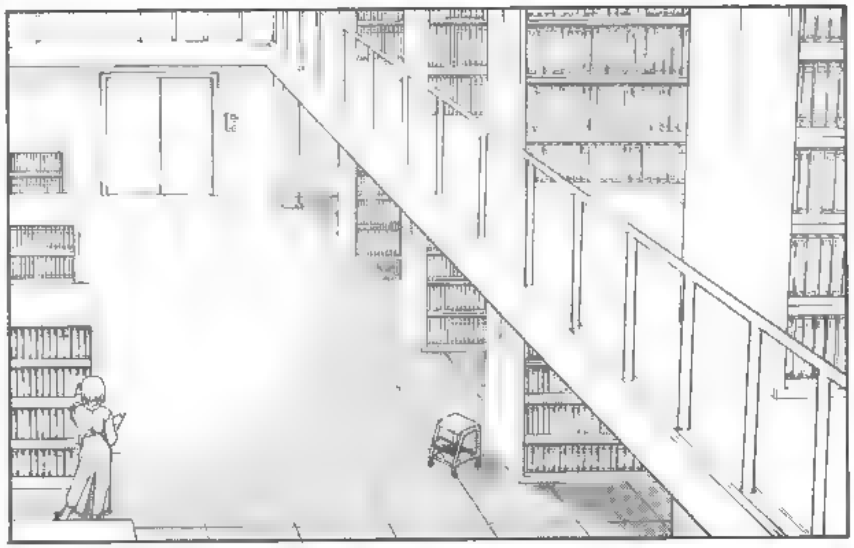
YOU WANT HIM TO FIGHT THE SENTI-NELS--?!

I DIDN'T SAY THAT...WE JUST WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE ANOMALOUS NATURE OF HIS ABILITIES.
DO YOU? WELL, WHAT IF YOU FIND HE DOES HAVE SPECIAL POWERS? WHAT THEN?
WAIT!

WILL HE END UP AS A TEST SUBJECT TO BE EXPLOIT-ED, LIKE M--
QUICK!
IF I COOPERATE WITH YOUR SCIENTISTS, WILL YOU FINALLY TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT KEI?

DON'T BE A *FOOL*, SUNAO--!
BAMM
KRIKK
?!

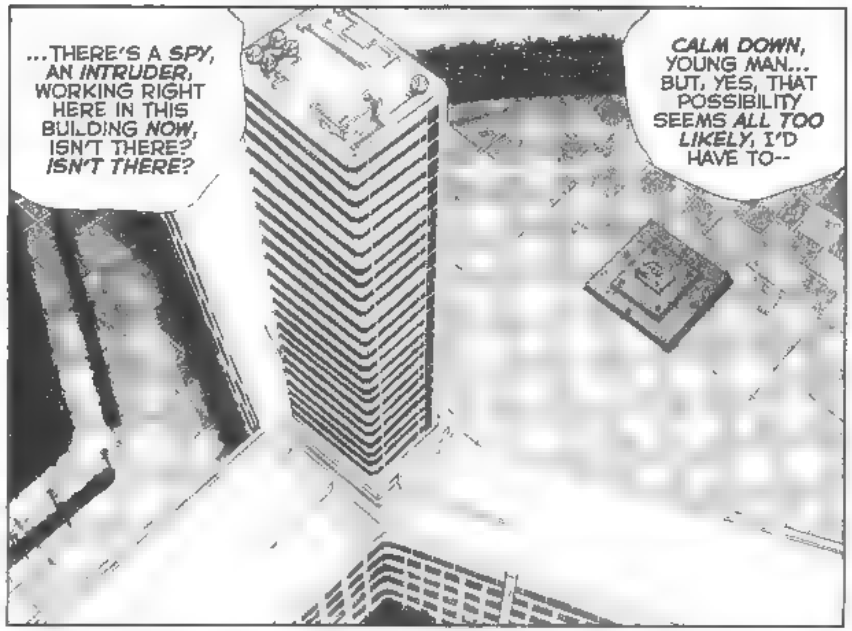
FWSSSH
A *BUG*...?



HMM.
WELL, THAT'S *ONE* SET OF REPORTS FILED. ONLY *TWO* MORE TO--
PSHKK

?!
WASN'T THAT... KEI...?

A LISTENING DEVICE...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THIS BUILDING'S SECURITY IS IN LOCK-DOWN MODE...ALL ELECTROMAGNETIC FREQUENCIES ARE BEING BLOCKED, SO THIS CAN'T BE SIGNALING OUT TO--
THIS TYPE OF SURVEILLANCE DEVICE CONVERTS AUDIBLE FREQUENCIES INTO LASER PULSES AND BEAMS THEM TO AN OUTSIDE RECEIVER.
HMM... I SEE...
PERFECT AGAINST RADIO-FREQUENCY JAMMING OR CONVENTIONAL MEANS OF DETECTION. THESE DEVICES ONLY HAVE TWO SERIOUS DISADVAN-TAGES...
...FIRST, THEY HAVE TO BE ATTACHED TO WINDOWS...AND SECOND, THEY EXPEND THEIR BATTERY CHARGES VERY QUICKLY. ONLY, IN THIS CASE...
THIS ONE'S STILL FUNCTION-ING!
THEN... THAT MEANS...


...THERE'S A SPY, AN INTRUDER, WORKING RIGHT HERE IN THIS BUILDING NOW, ISN'T THERE? ISN'T THERE?
CALM DOWN, YOUNG MAN... BUT, YES, THAT POSSIBILITY SEEMS ALL TOO LIKELY, I'D HAVE TO--

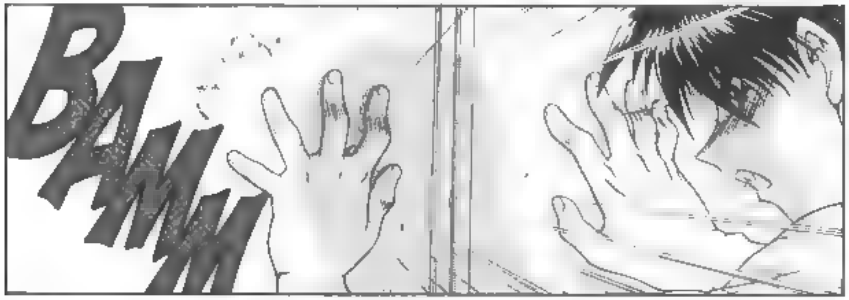
BREEP
YES, HEIDE-MANN HERE...
WHAT?
KEI'S BEEN KIDNAP-PED--?!

ACT 38

ARE YOU SURE THAT KEI'S BEEN TAKEN--?!
I...I THINK SO, SIR... SHE'S VANISHED FROM THE SCANNING ROOM...A-AND I CAN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE...!
THOSE TWO MEN I PASSED IN THE HALL... TH-THEY WERE PUSHING A GURNEY...KEI MUST HAVE BEEN ON IT...!
OH, SIR...
I...I RAN INTO THE MONITORING STATION...AND SAW THAT...ALL THE STAFF... :SOBB:

...THEY... THEY'VE BEEN SLAUGHTERED, SIR...!

NO... THIS... THIS CAN'T...
COMMITTING MASS MURDER IN A U.N. FACILITY...?
WHO WOULD DARE...?


BAMM

WHAT THE HELL--? OPEN UP!
HEY!
BAMM BAMM
HRRRNH

...
...
...

DAMN IT...!
WHY IS THIS LOCKED, ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
THDD
THDD

WHAT'S GOING ON, MISS M-ZAK? THE DOORS WON'T--
YOU SEEM ENTIRELY TOO RELAXED RIGHT NOW, INVESTIGATOR M-ZAK!

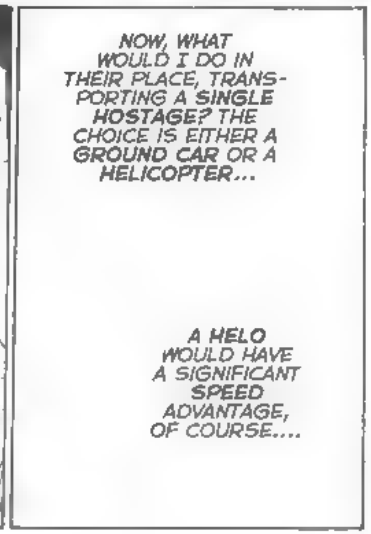
NURSE HISHIKA SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO MEN INVOLVED... WHO DO YOU THINK MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR--
WELL. HOW VERY AGGRAVATING. IMMEDIATELY AFTER I DISCOVER THIS SURVEILLANCE DEVICE...
...THE DOORS ARE SUDDENLY LOCKED.

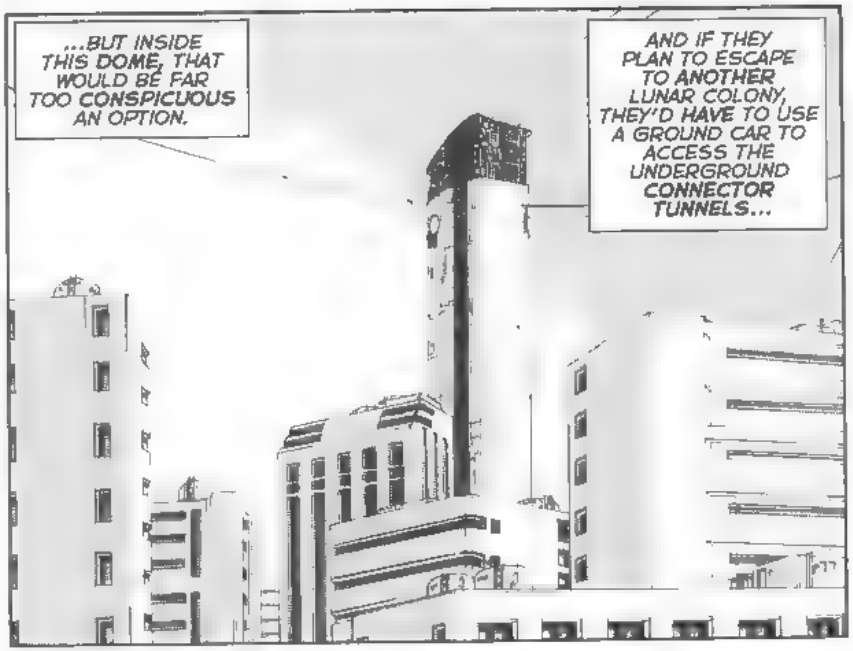
AND ALL THE ALARMS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DISABLED AS WELL, IT WOULD SEEM.
MISS M-ZAK! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?!
CHIIINGG

WHICH MEANS THEY MUST HAVE SEIZED THIS BUILDING'S SECURITY CONTROL CENTER...
FWAPP
LISTEN TO ME, MISS M-ZAK!

WE HAVE TO FIND KEI...
WE WON'T FIND HER BY RUNNING BLINDLY THROUGHOUT THE FACILITY, DOCTOR HEIDEMANN.
FIRST, WE NEED TO DETERMINE WHERE SHE MIGHT BE...OR WHERE THEY INTEND TO TAKE HER.
KLAK

USE YOUR HIGH-LEVEL CLEARANCE TO ACCESS THE BUILDING'S SENSORS AND MONITOR CAMERAS.
HUH?
OH! OF COURSE!
ASSUMING THAT YOU CAN ACCESS THE SYSTEM AT ALL, OF COURSE...


NOW, WHAT WOULD I DO IN THEIR PLACE, TRANSPORTING A SINGLE HOSTAGE? THE CHOICE IS EITHER A GROUND CAR OR A HELICOPTER...
A HELO WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT SPEED ADVANTAGE, OF COURSE....


...BUT INSIDE THIS DOME, THAT WOULD BE FAR TOO CONSPICUOUS AN OPTION.
AND IF THEY PLAN TO ESCAPE TO ANOTHER LUNAR COLONY, THEY'D HAVE TO USE A GROUND CAR TO ACCESS THE UNDERGROUND CONNECTOR TUNNELS...

BREEEP
ERROR
BREEEP
KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK
HNNH
IT'S NO USE... I CAN'T GET THROUGH.

AS I EXPECTED...
DOWN.. YES.. DOWN
?
THEY'RE MOVING DOWN-WARD...!
SO THEY MUST BE IN AN ELEVATOR, RIGHT...?

WHAT DID YOU SAY, SUNAO?
ARE YOU USING CLAIRVOYANCE? YOU'RE REMOTE VIEWING, AREN'T YOU?
CAN YOU TELL US EXACTLY WHERE SHE IS--?!
N-NO... NOTHING SO PRECISE, SIR...I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING THAT THEY'RE--
RIGHT. THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH, SUNAO.
SHINGG
THAT'S ALL THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO GET STARTED!
H-YAAH!
SKRANGG

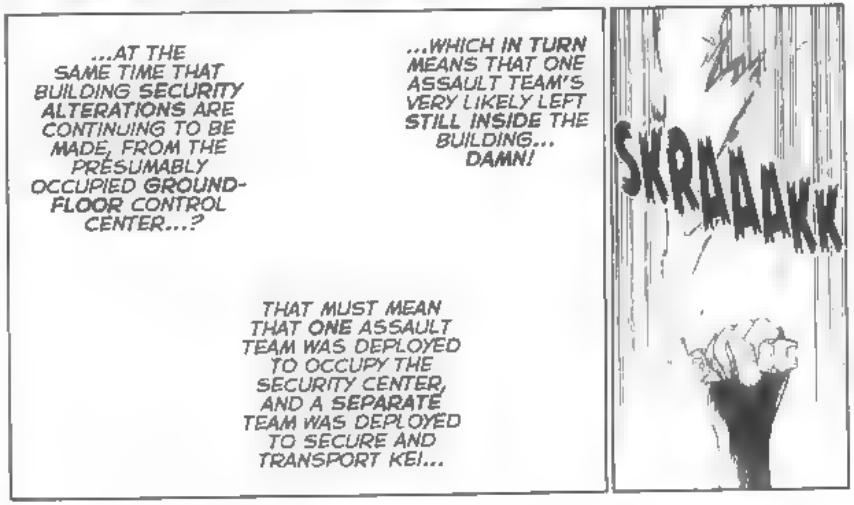
WHSHHNGG
YEOW!
HAHH!
FWOO
TCH!
COME ON...
...CUT THROUGH THAT ARMORGLASS, YOU CHEAP PIECE OF U.N.-ISSUE GARBAGE!
SKRASHH

THERE! LET'S GO, SHALL WE?
WHOOOM
HAHH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN--
GYAAH!
THAPP
W-WAIT, MISS M-ZAK... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUMP, ARE YOU?
DON'T WORRY, ALL RIGHT? BETWEEN THE MOON'S ONE-SIXTH OF A GEE AND THE AIR RESISTANCE, WE'VE NOTHING TO FEAR!
B BUT
NO WAY!
HOLD DOWN THE FORT HERE, WON'T YOU, DOCTOR? AND DO BE CAREFUL...
MISS M. ZAK DON'T

ACT 39

AAA
AAA
AAA

AAAAA
CURIOUS... NURSE HISHIKA SEES THE INTRUDERS TRANSPORTING KEI, OUTSIDE THE UPPER-LEVEL SCANNING ROOM...


...AT THE SAME TIME THAT BUILDING SECURITY ALTERATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO BE MADE, FROM THE PRESUMABLY OCCUPIED GROUND-FLOOR CONTROL CENTER...?
...WHICH IN TURN MEANS THAT ONE ASSAULT TEAM'S VERY LIKELY LEFT STILL INSIDE THE BUILDING... DAMN!
THAT MUST MEAN THAT ONE ASSAULT TEAM WAS DEPLOYED TO OCCUPY THE SECURITY CENTER, AND A SEPARATE TEAM WAS DEPLOYED TO SECURE AND TRANSPORT KEI...
SKRAAAKK

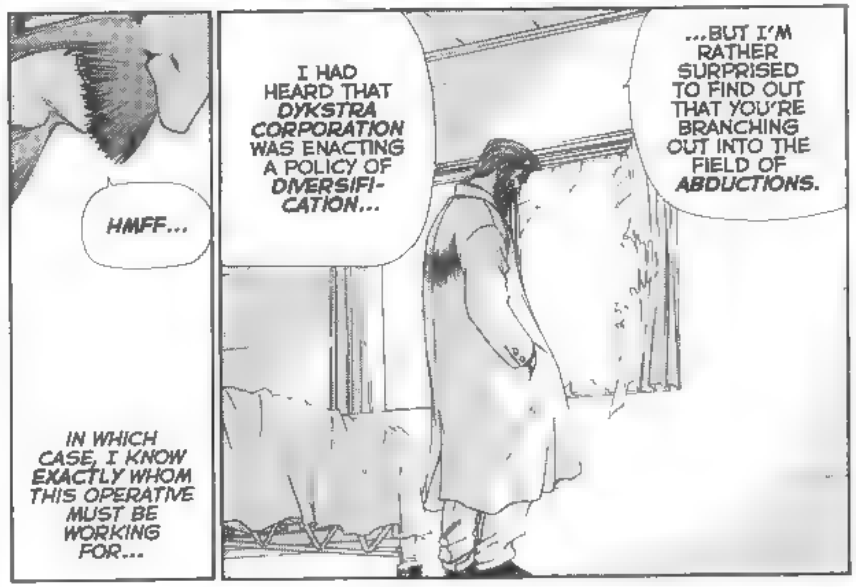
WELL, DOCTOR HEIDEMANN WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM... MY JOB IS TO PROTECT KEI!
SHINGG
SKRE
THAP
KRSHHH

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, INVESTIGATOR M-ZAK!
YOU MUST GET KEI BACK, NO MATTER THE COST!
PSHNKK
?!

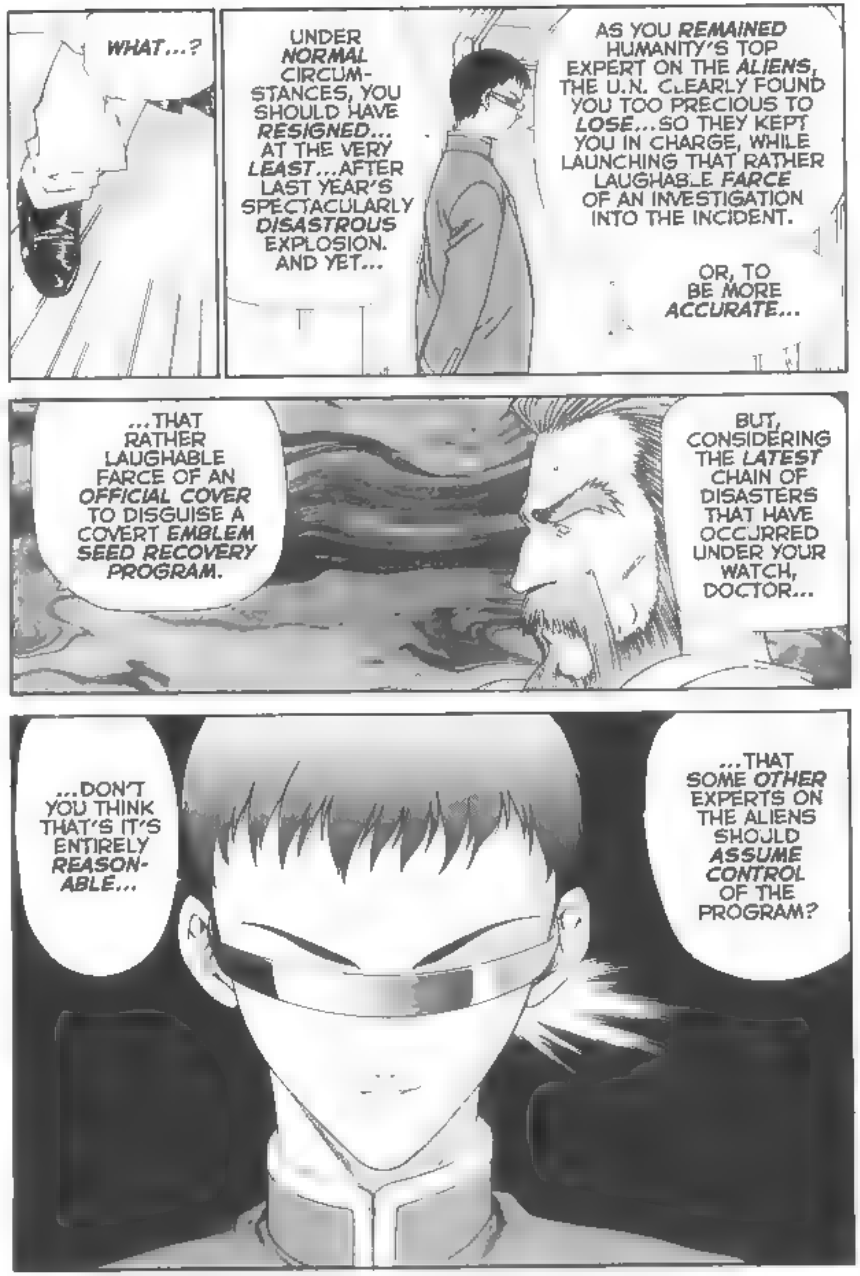
DOCTOR HEIDE-MANN, I PRESUME?
COME WITH ME, SIR. I'M YOUR GUIDE, SO TO SPEAK.

YOU'RE ONE OF THE KID-NAPPERS, THEN?

IS HE ONE OF APEP'S AGENTS?
NO...
...APEP WOULD HAVE USED ONE OF THE SENTINELS, OF COURSE, FOR A GREATER DEGREE OF CONTROL...

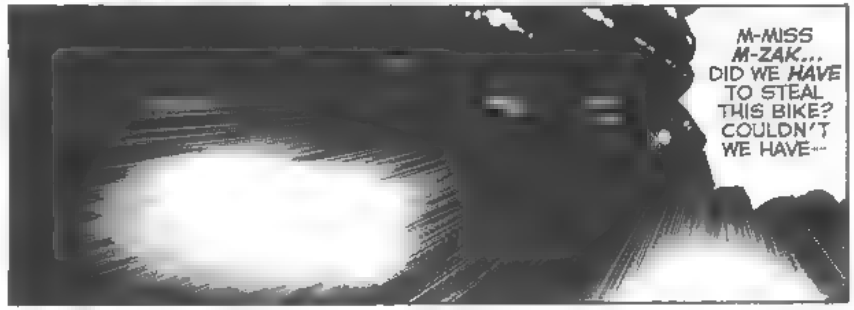

HMFF...
IN WHICH CASE, I KNOW EXACTLY WHOM THIS OPERATIVE MUST BE WORKING FOR...
I HAD HEARD THAT DYKSTRA CORPORATION WAS ENACTING A POLICY OF DIVERSIFI-CATION...
...BUT I'M RATHER SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT YOU'RE BRANCHING OUT INTO THE FIELD OF ABDUCTIONS.

ATTACKING A U.N. FACILITY IN BROAD DAYLIGHT HARDLY SEEMS TO BE A RATIONAL BUSINESS DECISION, DOES IT?
WON'T THIS HARM YOUR ALL-IMPORTANT BOTTOM LINE?
DON'T WORRY, SIR. WE'VE HEDGED APPROPRIATELY, NEVER FEAR.
INDEED, DOCTOR, IT APPEARS THAT YOUR OWN BOTTOM LINE-- IN A CAREER SENSE AT LEAST-- MAY BE THE ONE IN JEOPARDY.


WHAT...?
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES, YOU SHOULD HAVE RESIGNED... AT THE VERY LEAST...AFTER LAST YEAR'S SPECTACULARLY DISASTROUS EXPLOSION. AND YET...
AS YOU REMAINED HUMANITY'S TOP EXPERT ON THE ALIENS, THE U.N. CLEARLY FOUND YOU TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE...SO THEY KEPT YOU IN CHARGE, WHILE LAUNCHING THAT RATHER LAUGHABLE FARCE OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT.
OR, TO BE MORE ACCURATE...
...THAT RATHER LAUGHABLE FARCE OF AN OFFICIAL COVER TO DISGUISE A COVERT EMBLEM SEED RECOVERY PROGRAM.
BUT, CONSIDERING THE LATEST CHAIN OF DISASTERS THAT HAVE OCCURRED UNDER YOUR WATCH, DOCTOR...
...DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S IT'S ENTIRELY REASON-ABLE...
...THAT SOME OTHER EXPERTS ON THE ALIENS SHOULD ASSUME CONTROL OF THE PROGRAM?

WHY, YOU CORPORATE *BASTARDS...!*
WHAT ARE YOU *SAYING...?*

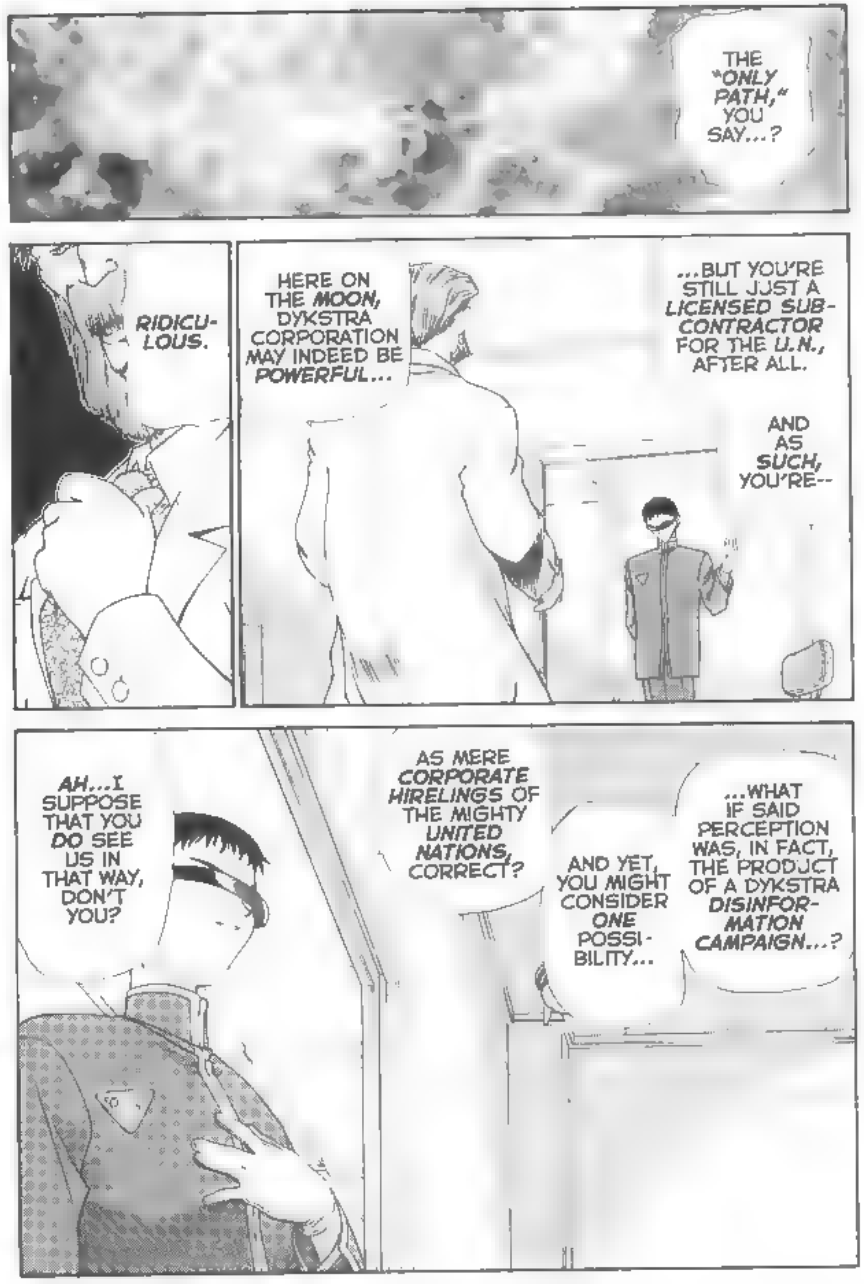
AS I *SAID*, DOCTOR... I'M YOUR *GUIDE*--
--TO THE *ONLY PATH* THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO *REMAIN* AT THE VANGUARD OF YOUR CHOSEN FIELD OF RESEARCH.

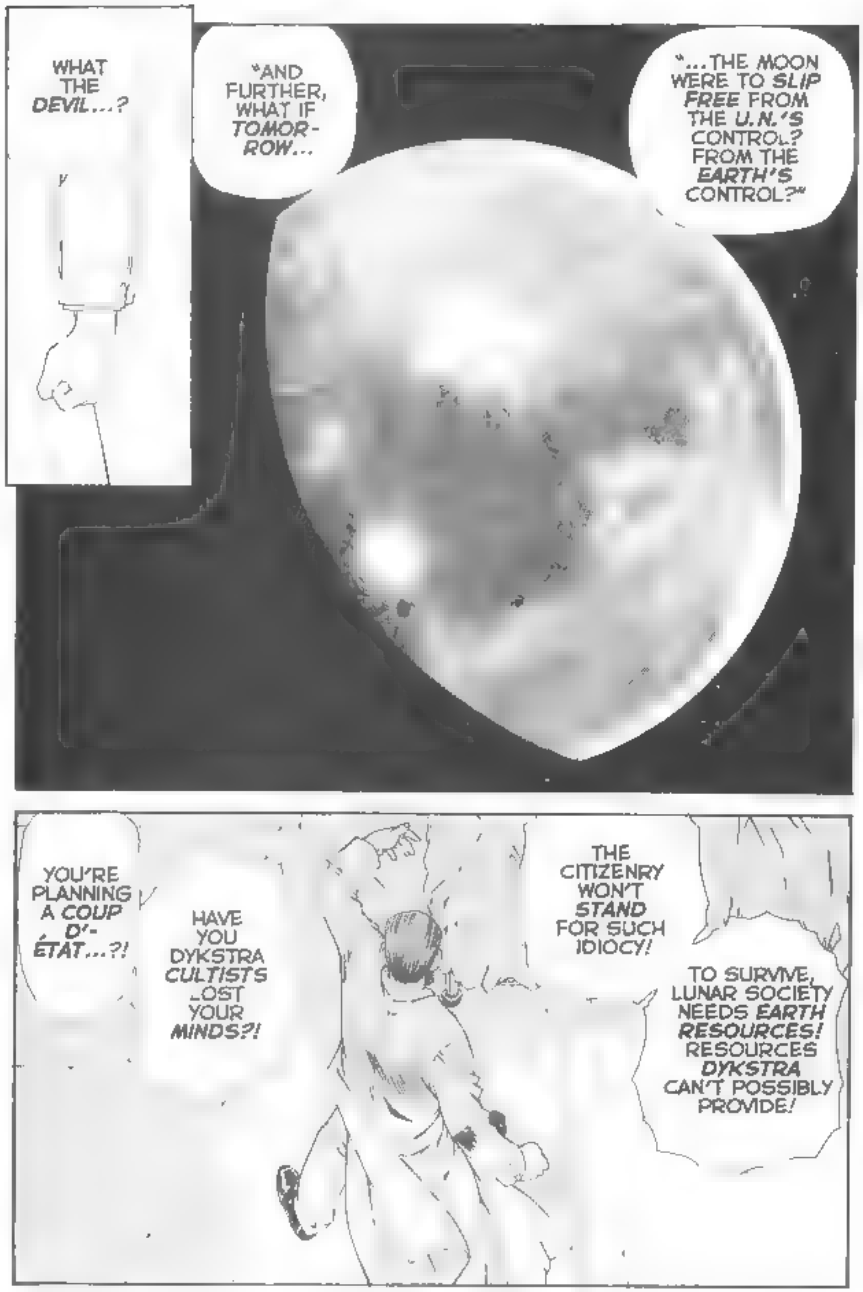

M-MISS *M-ZAK*... DID WE *HAVE* TO STEAL THIS BIKE? COULDN'T WE HAVE--

ASK SOME-ONE WHO CARES, WON'T YOU?
THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY, SUNAO! WE'RE DOING WHAT WE HAVE TO DO, UNDER-STAND?
SKREEE
EEP!
VRRMB
WELL?
ARE WE CLOSING IN ON THEM OR NOT? WE'VE TRAVELED FIVE MILES ALREADY...!
UM, WELL... I...I JUST...

FWIP
YOU JUST WHAT?
I CAN FEEL KEI! I KNOW THAT I'M SENS.NG HER, MISS M-ZAK!
ONLY, IT SEEMS LIKE, WEL... SHE'S OUTSIDE THE TUNNEL!
B-BUT THAT'S CRAZY, ISN'T IT? BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING BUT SOLID MOONROCK OUT THERE... RIGHT?
SO MAYBE WE REALLY CAN'T TRUST MY PERCEPTIONS, CAN WE...?
BREEP
UH... MISS M-ZAK? HELLO...?
FSHH
SUNAO... TRUST YOURSELF, WON'T YOU?
HUH?

A SECONDARY TUNNEL RUNS PARALLEL TO THIS ONE, YOU SEE. DESIGNED STRICTLY FOR EMERGENCY USAGE.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT RARELY SEES TRAFFIC.
JUST THE THING FOR A GROUP OF FLEEING KIDNAPPERS, DON'T YOU THINK?
HOLD TIGHT! WE'LL CROSS OVER TO THE EMERGENCY TUNNEL AT THE NEXT INTERSECTION!
OKAY ...!
IF YOU FEEL ANYTHING ELSE, LET ME KNOW!
UWAAH!
VRRR
KCHIK


THE "ONLY PATH," YOU SAY...?
RIDICULOUS.
HERE ON THE MOON, DYKSTRA CORPORATION MAY INDEED BE POWERFUL...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL JUST A LICENSED SUBCONTRACTOR FOR THE U.N., AFTER ALL.
AND AS SUCH, YOU'RE--
AH...I SUPPOSE THAT YOU DO SEE US IN THAT WAY, DON'T YOU?
AS MERE CORPORATE HIRELINGS OF THE MIGHTY UNITED NATIONS, CORRECT?
AND YET, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER ONE POSSIBILITY...
...WHAT IF SAID PERCEPTION WAS, IN FACT, THE PRODUCT OF A DYKSTRA DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN...?


WHAT THE DEVIL...?
"AND FURTHER, WHAT IF TOMOR-ROW...
"...THE MOON WERE TO SLIP FREE FROM THE U.N.'S CONTROL? FROM THE EARTH'S CONTROL?"
YOU'RE PLANNING A COUP D'-ÉTAT...?!
HAVE YOU DYKSTRA CULTISTS LOST YOUR MINDS?!
THE CITIZENRY WON'T STAND FOR SUCH IDIOCY!
TO SURVIVE, LUNAR SOCIETY NEEDS EARTH RESOURCES! RESOURCES DYKSTRA CAN'T POSSIBLY PROVIDE!

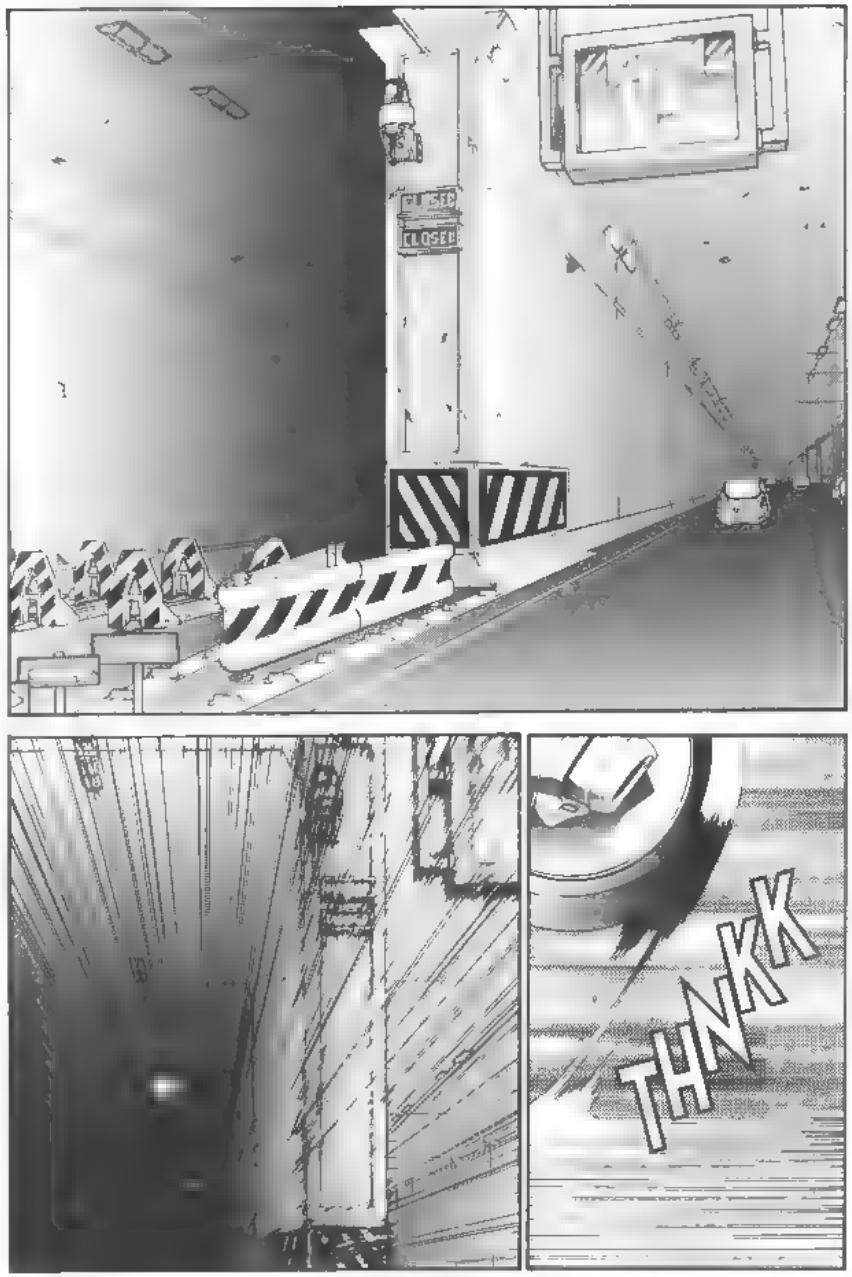
I QUITE AGREE, DOCTOR. BUT LUNAR SOCIETY MIGHT NOT PERCEIVE THE SITUATION IN SO RATIONAL A MANNER...
...IF THEY'RE LEAD TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THE EARTH, ARE THEIR IMPLACABLE ENEMIES.
HAH!
YOU'RE LIVING IN A DREAM WORLD!
YOU CAN'T REVERSE PUBLIC OPINION OVER-NIGHT!
PERHAPS. WE'LL CERTAINLY FIND OUT... STARTING NOW.
WHAT...?
BREEEEP

THIS IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE LUNAR LIBERATION COUNCIL! THE UNITED NATIONS' LUNAR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IS NOW OCCUPIED BY OUR FORCES!
I REPEAT-- THE UNITED NATIONS' LUNAR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IS NOW UNDER OUR CONTROL!

TERRAN IMPERIALISM AND THE "EARTH-FIRST" TOADYISM OF THE UNITED NATIONS ARE CRUSHING THE SOVEREIGNTY AND HIGH IDEALS OF OUR LUNAR SOCIETY!
THE LUNAR LIBERATION COUNCIL HEREBY VOWS TO RESIST TERRAN AGGRESSION TO THE END!
THAT'S STRANGE... ¿S THIS A VIDSHOW, OR SOMETHING...?
SO... THE FIRST ACT BEGINS.

"I NEED YOU TO KEEP ONE IMPORTANT FACT IN MIND, YOUNG HEIDEMANN.
"YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT, IN THE END, OUR COMPANY'S PRIME DIRECTIVE IS TO DEFEND THE MOON FROM TERRAN IMPERIALISM."
HMM...COME ON, MY DYKSTRA CORPORATION FRIENDS. SHOW ME YOUR CARDS, WON'T YOU...?

ACT 40


CLOSED
THNKK

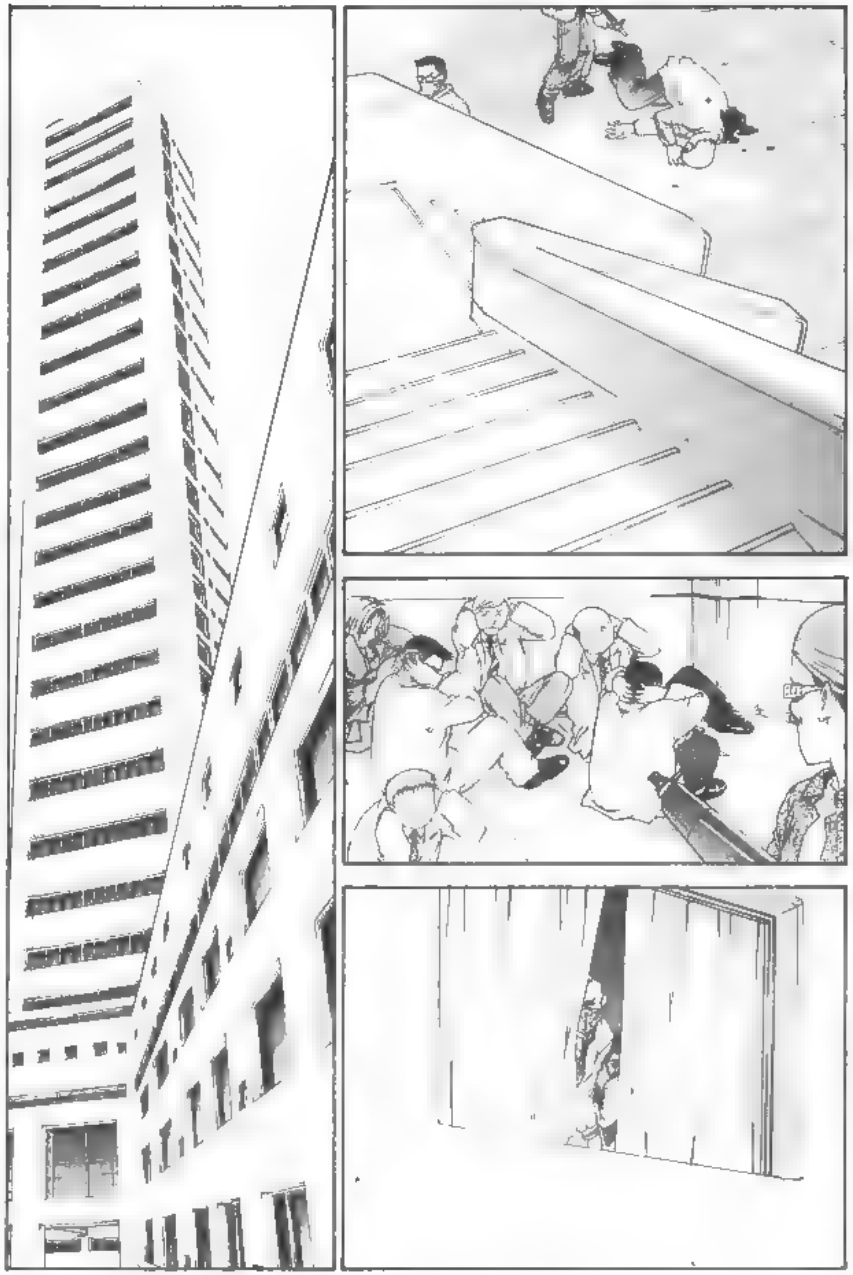
SKREEEE
UH, MISS M-ZAK...? ISN'T IT DANGEROUS TO BE RIDING WITH OUR LIGHTS OFF LIKE THIS...?
MY VISION AUGMENTATION ALLOWS ME TO SEE BETTER IN THE DARK, SUNAO... THIS LIGHT LEVEL IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR ME!
BESIDES, RIGHT NOW THE PEOPLE WE'RE PURSUING CAN'T HEAR US OVER THEIR OWN ENGINE NOISE. IF WE USE OUR HEADLIGHTS, WE'LL GIVE OURSELVES AWAY!

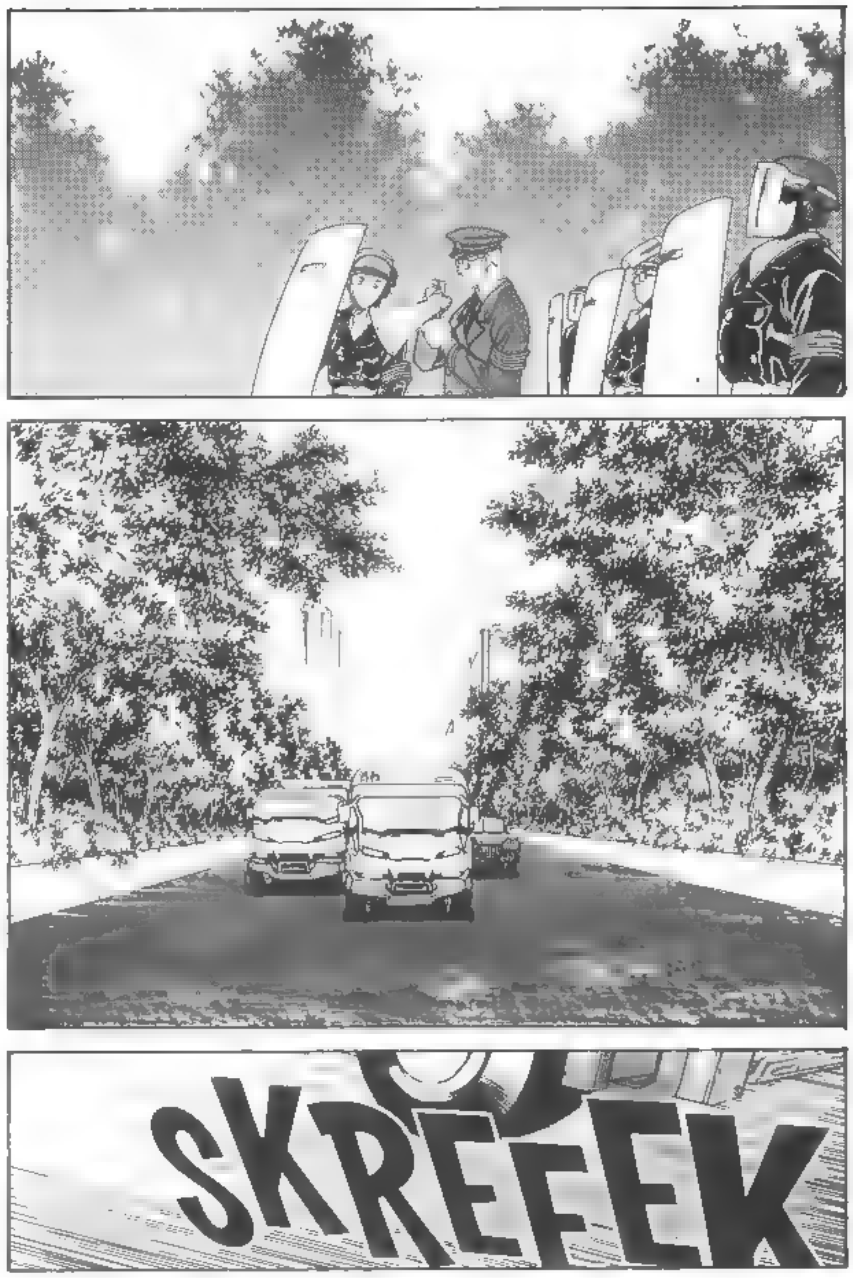
S-SORRY, MISS M-ZAK...
INSTEAD, WE'LL USE THE DARKNESS AS CONCEAL-MENT TO--
AH!
NOW I UNDERSTAND... WHILE YOU MAY HAVE ALL SORTS OF POWERFUL METATALENTS, YOU'RE STILL AFRAID OF THE DARK, AREN'T YOU?
OF COURSE! GOD, I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...
N-NO, I'M NOT! I'M... I'M JUST...
VRRRMB
OH, DON'T WORRY, SUNAO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT TOUGH WITH ME...!
IF YOU'RE SCARED, DON'T BE SHY, JUST GRAB ONTO ME AND HOLD TIGHT, OKAY?
AFTER ALL...
...THIS WOULDN'T BE ANY MORE INTIMATE A CONTACT THAN THAT TIME YOU PLANTED YOUR FACE BETWEEN MY BREASTS, WOULD IT...?
HUH?

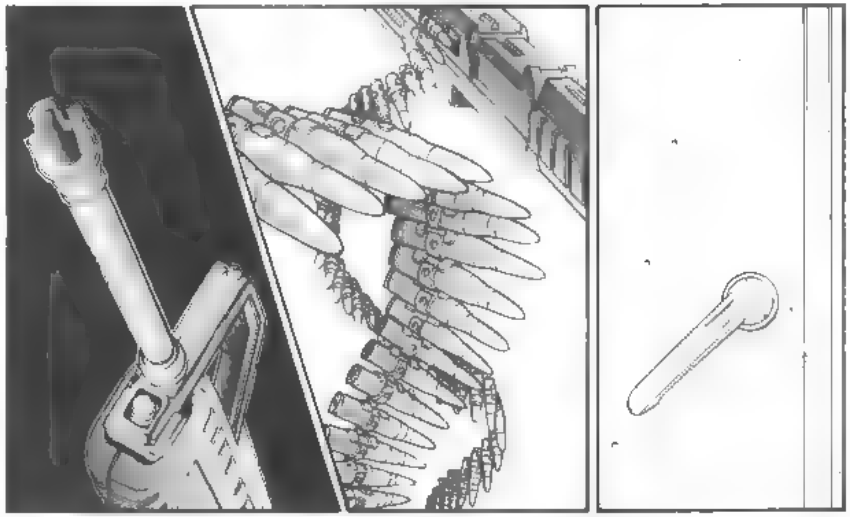
THOUGH I WOULD ASK YOU TO NOT TAKE TOO MANY LIBERTIES WHILE YOUR HANDS ARE ON ME.../
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT--?
L-"LIBER-TIES"...? BUT, I'D...I'D NEVER--!!

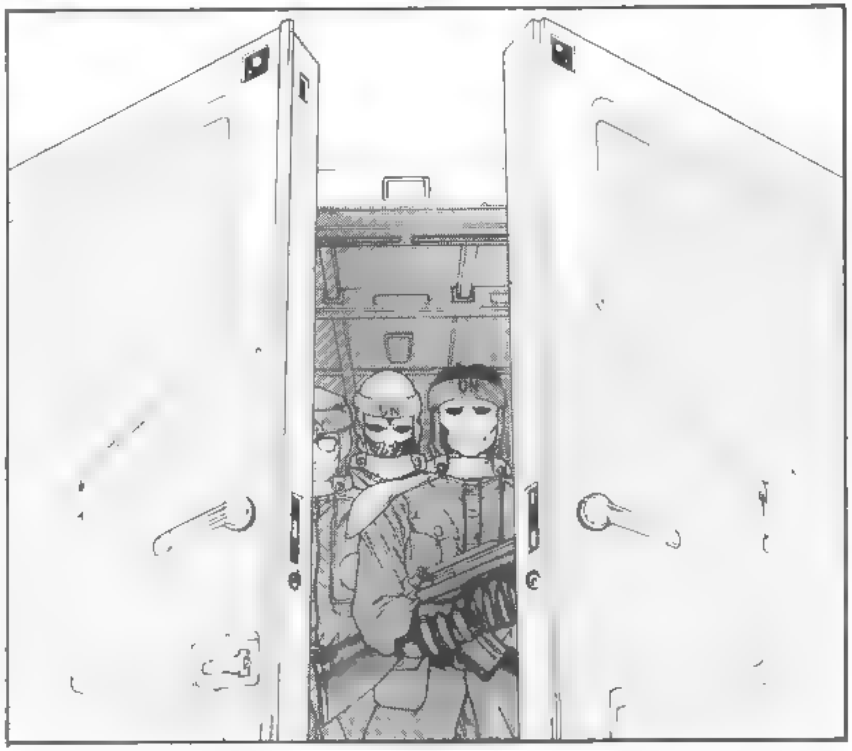
SO, SUNAO...
HEE, HEE
...CAN YOU DETECT IF KEI IS ACTUALLY ON THIS ROAD OR NOT?
GULPP
UH... SHE'S HERE.
I MEAN, I THINK SHE IS... AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE...!
I SEE.

ENOUGH TOYING WITH HIM...HE WOULD NEVER... WE COULD NEVER...
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK TIME, IS THERE...?




SKREEEK

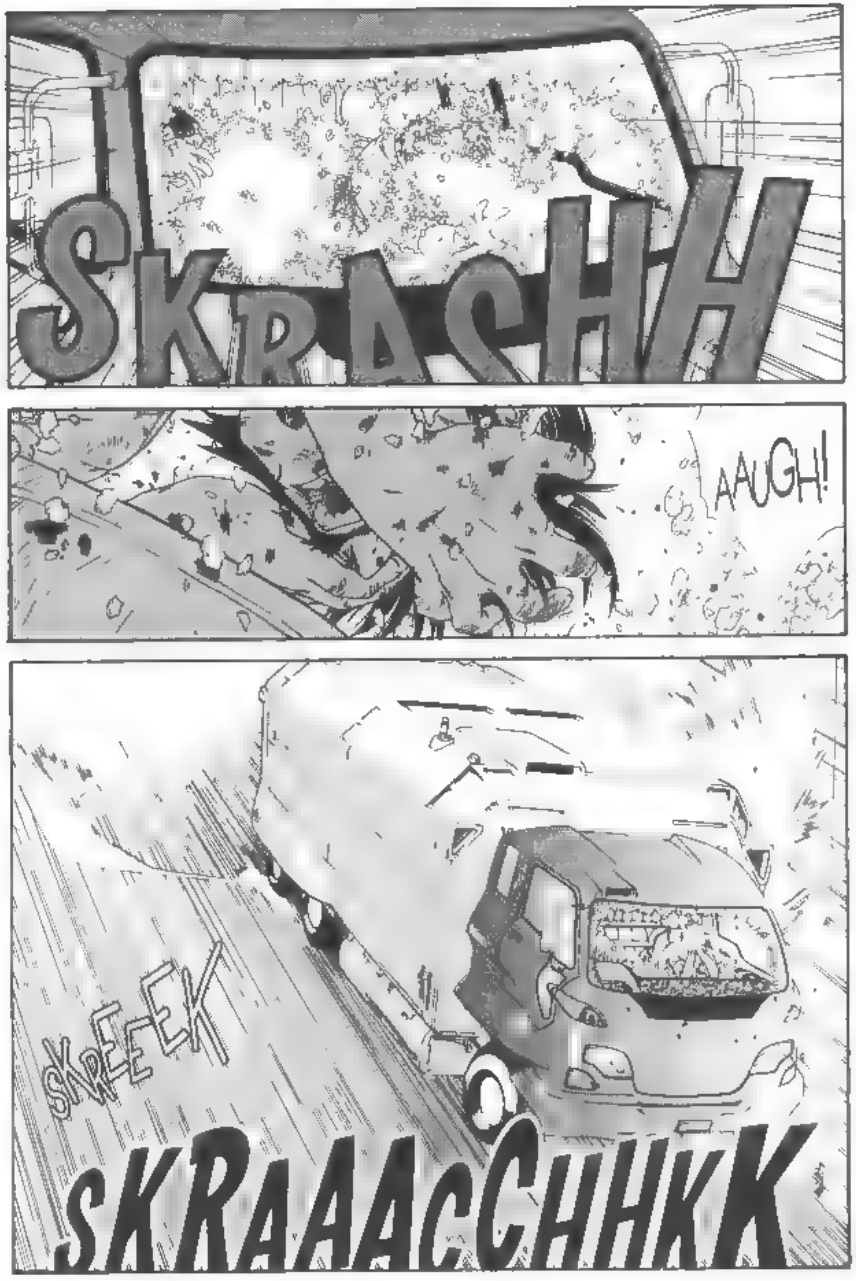




WHHSH

?
FWSHH
VREEE

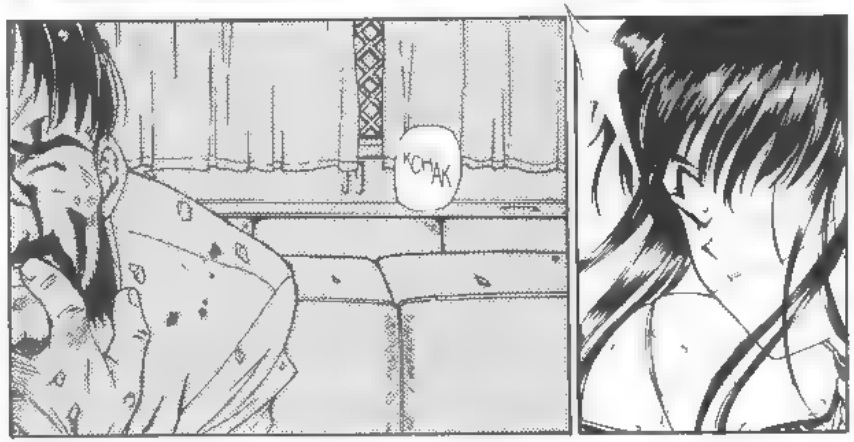
HEY, HOW COME YOU OPENED THE WINDOW?
SPEE!
? I-- WHAT THE HELL--?!
!!
SHINNGG
?!
SKRAKK
SKRCCH
KCHNKK


SKRASHH
AAUGH!
SKREEK
SKRAAACCHHKK

WHDD

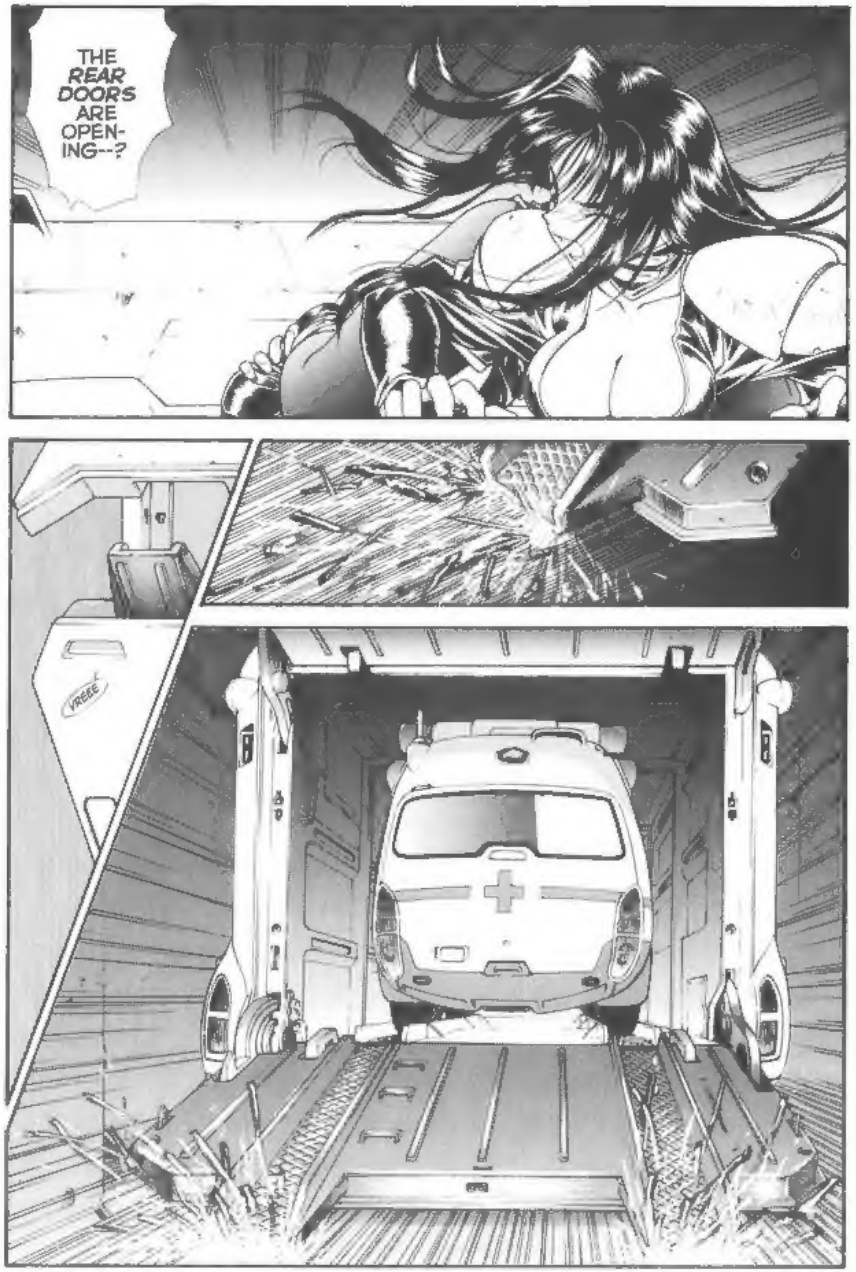
STOP THE TRUCK, NOW!
THIS IS AN OFFICIAL U.N. INSPECTION, BOYS...I'M HERE TO CHECK YOUR CARGO!

UHHNG
ƎHRKKE
ƎGKKE


KCHAK

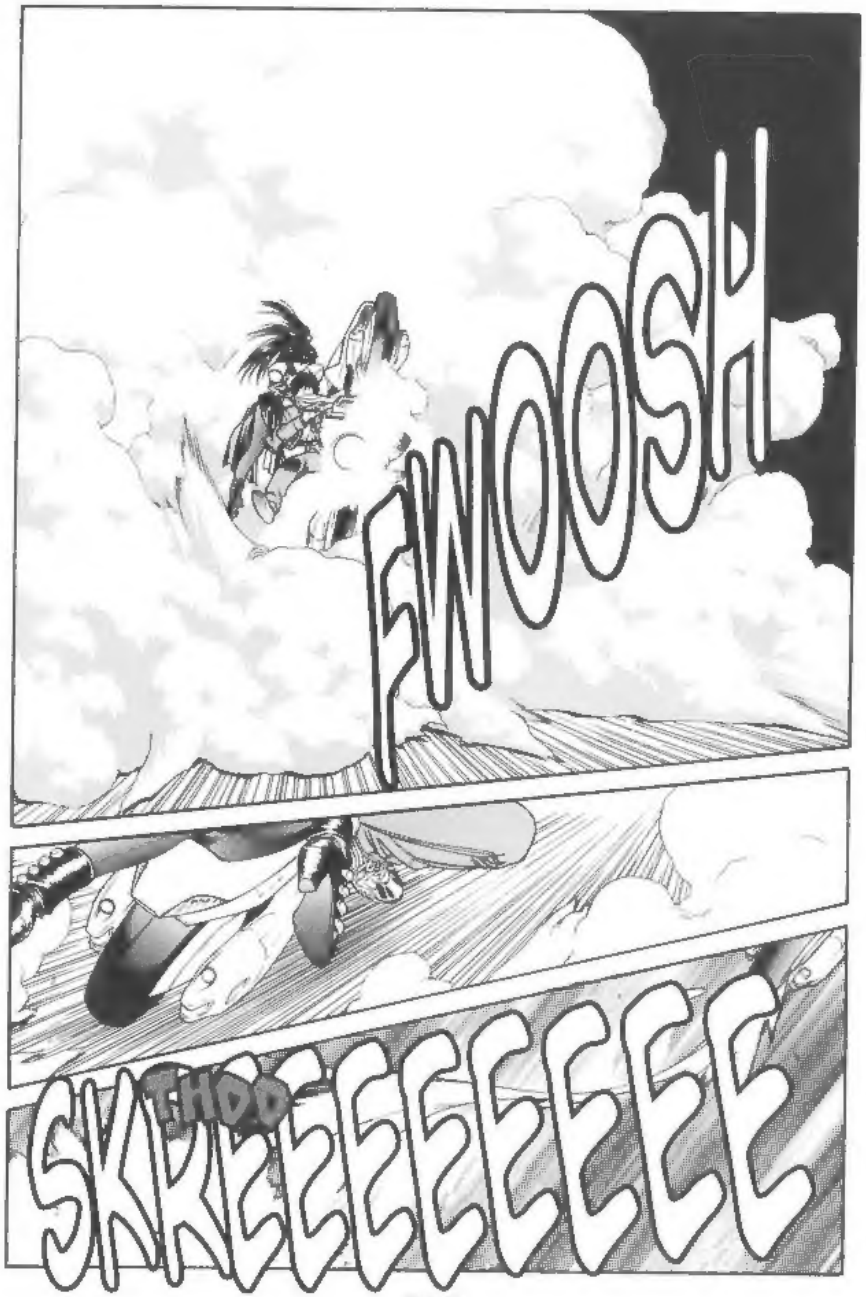
WHT
BKAM
KAM BKAM BKAM BKA
GYAAA

SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
DAMN IT--!
SPLAPP
SPLCH!
THNK
WELL. LOOKS LIKE I'VE HIT THE JACKPOT, HAVEN'T I?
THOUGH SOMEBODY'S CLEARLY A TAD ON THE TRIGGER-HAPPY SIDE, I SEE...
?!
KCHUNGG

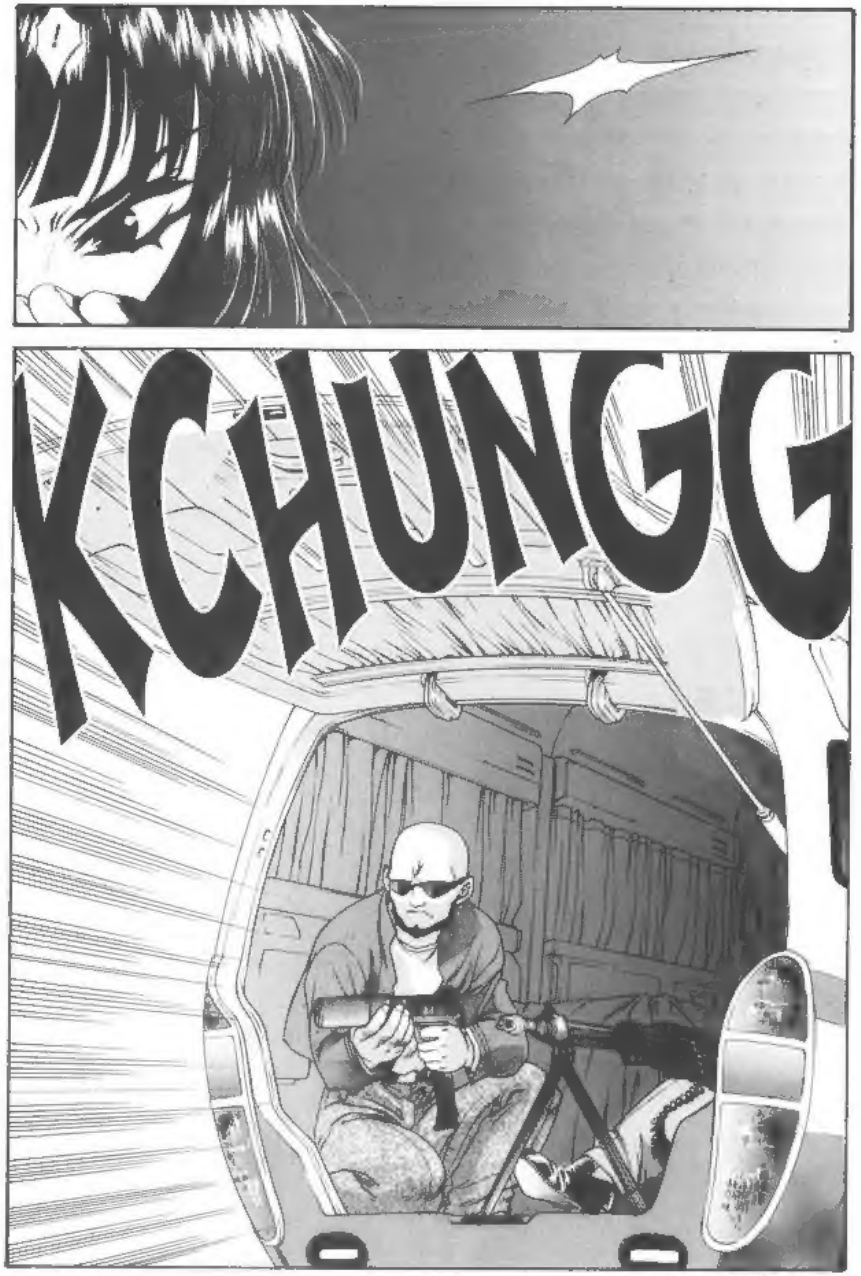

THE REAR DOORS ARE OPEN-ING--?
VREEE

SUNAO!
OVER HERE!
VRRMB
THAT'S IT!
JUST A BIT CLOSER...
!

WHKOOM


FWOOSH
THOD
SKREEEEEEEEE

OOH... VERY NICE BIKE-HANDLING, SUNAO! I'M IMPRESSED!
N-N-NO PROBLEM, MISS M-ZAK...
HEH, HEH...
}HFF{
}HAHN{
THEN CRANK THAT THROTTLE WIDE OPEN, MY LITTLE BIKER BOY...!
FIRST WE'LL RESCUE KEI, AND THEN...
SKSH SKSH
EEP
...I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR MUSSING MY BEAUTIFUL HAIR!
YES, MA'AM!



TO BE CONTINUED...!